エルフの姫を奴隷にして世界を支配させます。
異世界ならニートが働くと思った？
WHY YOU EXPECTED ANOTHER WORLD TO MOTIVATE A NEET?
刈野ミカタ
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CLANLEU SHIMISHKA
クランレウ・シミシカ
HOUBAMI REIJI
崩喰レイジ
TIFALVCIA CLEARGREEN
ティファリシア・クリアグリン
？？？？？

「なぜこんなものを
持っているのですか……っ」
「ご主人さまと……レイジと、
えっちなことをしたいとおもった」

ようこそ
《万象の楽園》へ

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Prologue:
No Working, Not before Losing

This world is the best.

Lying on a luxurious bed.

Tasting the delicacies lined up on the side table.

Receiving a massage from a scarcely dressed pretty girl.

Houbami Reiji muttered in comfort.

“Aah -Really the best- Another World.”

He, who looked like a mere high school student on the surface, was summoned as a **Hero** to **Universal Paradise (Aquatera Realm)** one month ago.

Three white moons floated in the sky.

Huge dragons soared carefreely.

The existence of Elves, Beast People, Spirits and magic were all real, a fantasy world like in a manga or a game.

He was fully enjoying the most out of that world.

With no friends or family, not even a smartphone or the Internet.

The common sense and morality culture he had piled up were all useless, there was not even a public institution to guarantee his identity.

In other words.

All the troublesome (boring) restrictions were not there.

It was an environment where he did not have to study in school, was guaranteed of his living necessities, and could obtain anything he wished for.

Utopia…Elysium…Tír na nÓg……

Well, the name did not matter, it was nothing other than paradise.

“Don’t you think so? Master.”

Reiji spoke with a laid back voice to the other person.

The scarcely dressed pretty girl doing the massage — a girl with long ears from the 「Elf」, had her already trembling hands tremble even further due to the shame, making the tasteless collar around her neck clatter.

From the bottom of her heart — she screamed with all her strength.

“There’s no way I would think so right!?”

She had snow white skin and a perfectly shaped face.

Due to the thin and scarce attire, her bountiful breasts despite her slim body were easily revealed, her face dyed red in shame, she bit her lips in frustration, and was teary-eyed.

Even though she was clearly of noble birth, she was collared and giving Reiji a body massage dedicatedly.

It was she, who was the summoner that summoned Reiji to that world as his master.

Even though Reiji was supposed to become her servant according to the master-servant contract.

“Ah…Anyway, can you press down a bit stronger?”

“……”

“Aah a bit more below. That’s right, right there. Feels good.”

“……”

Being treated like a servant, she continued to press on Reiji’s body.

“Well, looks like you have improved quite a bit on this, Master.”

As Reiji emphasized the ‘on this’ in his words, the girl clenched her fist, and muttered in a small voice.

“Uuu……Next time……Next time for sure — I will win in 「**Showdown**」 and return this relationship to how it’s supposed to be……”

His master, the thirteenth inheritor to Granlem (「Elf」 Kingdom), Tifalycia Cleargreen, thought as she massaged the body of the **Hero**, who was supposed to be her cooperator as well as her servant.

—How did it end up like this?

“You just thought of ‘How did it end up like this?’ right?”

“Eh.”

“‘Why were my thoughts……’ ‘It’s mind reading after all……’ ‘Eh, then, then the this and that I thought of up till now as well……!?’”

“—Hii…a-a-ah!”

Seeing Tifalycia blocking her long ears, letting out ‘a-ah’ sound, trying not to get her mind read by not thinking of anything, Reiji smiled bitterly as if he had given up.

“How many time are you going to be fooled by this? I have said it many times already, I cannot read minds.”

“Th-This declaration itself can possibly be a lie!”

……Ah, that certainly was a possibility.

Although people would not sprout such a stupid lie normally, Reiji might.

Seeing that she no longer agreed to Reiji’s words blindly like before, then ending up dyeing her face red in shame, she seemed to have grown a little.

Reiji was slightly satisfied by it, and continued with a smirk.

“How distant, do I look like I am lying?”

“You do! And you look exactly like that!! I can even declare that there is no existence amongst all the races who can be more underhanded than you!!”

“Heh, you will go that far huh.”

Just by responding to her insistence with an evil smile, her face paled like a rabbit caught by a fox.

“Wh-What is it……I am only speaking the fact.”

“That’s right. It’s certainly the fact.”

He nodded in agreement…

“‘Since the opponent uses the most underhanded methods amongst all the races, there is no way I can win. It’s already decided that I will lose no matter how many times I challenge him in 「**Showdown**」. It can’t be helped that I cannot win a single time’ is it?”

“……!”

The girl’s meek expression immediately changed at those words.

Strong will dwelled in those beautiful gem-like jade pupils, her expression changed from a meek one that could not even kill a bug to that of a warrior’s.

Her right hand swung in an elegant gesture.

From the hunted to the hunter.

“—Very well.”

The girl announced with her lowest tone.

“Let’s have a 「**Showdown**」!”

—There we go, she bit the bait.

As Reiji thought so in his heart, he spoke with a troublesome attitude to his impulsive master (Tifalycia).

“Eh, today’s 「**Showdown**」 is already over. We must start from deciding the method again—”

“I don’t mind you deciding the method! If I win, you must do your duty as a hero properly without complaints……!”

“And if you lose?”

“I will do anything you say until you are satisfied!”

“Ah, is that so?”

Hearing the expected words, Reiji’s attitude changed.

An evil smile.

“It can’t be helped if you go that far. I will receive your challenge.”

After confirming the contract magic formation glowing lightly along with those words, he continued as if just bringing it up as a side.

“Just to confirm with you, you are fine with anything, right?”

“……A-Anything means?”

“‘I will do anything you say until you are satisfied’?”

“~That’s if I lose! On the contrary, our relationships must return to how it is if I win—”

“Nn, yes yes, I know.”

After obtaining her verbal confirmation, Reiji stretched himself lightly…

“Now then, I wonder what I should make you do next. An elf nyotaimori[1]……Adding a ‘nyaa’ as sentence ender was done before, cat ears overlaps with elf ears……No wait. Won’t it unexpectedly fit?”

Saying such things, he was already deciding on the demand after winning the 「**Showdown**」.

“T-T-Treating me like an idiot……”

The elf girl glared at him as she was trembling with anger which colored her in red.

That frustrating glare only made Reiji more pleased, he spoke with a sleazy expression.

“Just win if you feel frustrated — Against this NEET **Hero** Reiji-sama!”

Fuhahahahaha, Reiji purposely laughed out loudly.

Seeing that appearance, Tifalycia creased her brows sorrowfully.

“E-Even though he’s supposed to be the **Hero**……supposed to be the **Hero** — to think that he’s a NEET!”

Unprecedented, preposterous, incomprehensible—

No words could describe the horrible situation.

Therefore.

Therefore, Tifalycia thought about it for the nth time.

How did it end up like this—?

And, she also recalled that moment at the same time.

The day when everything began—

Chapter 1:
NEET, Master-Servant Reversal

Located at the east side of one of the three main continents, the Zestis Continent, which stretched along the East-West direction, with forests occupying the majority of the country, was the Country of the Elves, Granlem.

The seventh province, Tistel, located at the North-Western end, that had a major part of it connected to the neighbouring 「Beastia」 Union, Entara, played the role of Granlem's gate.

Ninety percent of the already narrow province was occupied by forest, hence there was no castle town or citizens.

What was there was just a small castle and a bare minimum number of servants, as well as a candidate to the throne in name only.

That's why — the secret ritual of **Hero Summon** was literally the trump card for Tifalycia Cleargreen, Lord of Tistel, thirteenth inheritor to the throne of Granlem.

—Ages ago, **Aquatera Realm** broke into a magic war which involved all races, the [Seventh].

The six races possessed individual magic systems. As a result of them, which held the hegemony of the world, hurled powerful magic against one another that could destroy the world seven times, they saw the danger of all races facing extinction, and came up with one solution.

That was the construction of the absolute law, **Great Contract Magic**, which possessed the power to magically enforce any and all contracts.

All races pledged under **The Cube,** which was created by assembling the complex magic systems of each race, to be non-violent, thereafter the chaotic and barbarous conflicts disappeared from the world.

Pledge for the beautiful peace. For eternal harmony.

However, no matter how ideal it was, problems between countries still occurred.

Realizing the limit of how much non-violence could resolve the problems, the races thought up of a system to make violence possible under exception.

That was the war authorized by having the two opposing races prepare detailed rules and decide on a field, then pledging under the **Great Contract Magic** that their entire race would strictly abide by those rules — **Pledged War**.

Henceforth, all political conflicts between countries forbade killing of the opposition, then liberated a limited usage of offensive magic. All were decided using **Pledged War**.

Pledged War.

A certain race summoned a **Hero** from **Another World** to fight as the commander, and brought that race an overwhelming victory.

That race noticed that if the **Hero** had the power to affect the history of their original worlds — called **Destiny**, it would greatly affect **Pledged War**.

In that way, every race became enthusiastic in summoning a **Hero**, causing **Pledged War** to be called **Heroic War**.

Of course, the **Hero Summon** which could call out a **Hero** from another world could not be done by just anyone.

Speaking of the 「Elf」, it was the special authority currently allowed only to the members of the Royal bloodline—

(Royal blood is also flowing in my veins.)

Queen of 「Elf」 — Clairlycia Cleargreen, being the older sister of the **Ruler**, she committed the 『Absolute Taboo』 and was called the worst stain of Granlem.

However, to Tifalycia, she was more gentle and intelligent than anyone, accepting even the servile 「Infirma」 without any discrimination, her most beloved mother.

She could not tolerate the royalty for saying 『Glad that she died』 to her mother no matter what.

She must somehow summon an excellent **Hero** through **Hero Summon**, making her own existence indispensable in the 「Elf」, so that she could

clear away her mother’s dishonor—

Ever since her mother passed away, Tifalycia had been living with that sole thought as her driving force, that’s why the **Hero Summon** could be said to be her once in a lifetime gamble.

The glowing magic formation represented the calling of a **Hero**, making her feel her entire body tremble due to the excitement.

(……It succeeded……)

Hero Summon was considered on another level even amongst the various difficult ritual magic.

Tifalycia had invested many years of preparation for that moment.

Light gradually converged, returning the stone chapel built outside the castle back to its original dimness.

Tifalycia’s eyes narrowed from the bright light, as she confirmed that there was a silhouette on the altar, her chest raised in expectation.

A **Hero** must have a noble wish in order to be summoned to another world, so that it would be easier to establish a contract afterwards. Pioneering spirit, exploring of the unknown, desire for world domination…… individuals possessing such kind of wishes must contain a powerful **Destiny** which could change history itself in their original worlds.

(—What kind of person will come?)

A little bit of anxiety and nervousness.

A greater expectation above all.

Before Tifalycia’s eyes completely adapted, she called out to the silhouette.

“Welcome to **Aquatera Realm**—!”

Through the **Hero Summon**, the **Hero’s** name was automatically translated and etched into the brain of the summoner.

The name she would be calling countless times from then on.

“**Hero** — Houbami Reiji.”

Light dissipated, and that figure cleared up.

Hero Reiji was—

A youth.

His age was around the same as Tifalycia who was sixteen.

A plain yet weird attire that gave off a uniformed feel from top to bottom. A school bag hung on his shoulder. Humans from another world having strange attire or objects in their hands were nothing special by then, but his physique was rather slim, and he did not look like he had held a sword or shield even once before.

Despite already changing the world’s history, unable to abandon the spirit of exploring the unknown, those people would more or less experience some sort of battle.

For example, 『Arthur Pendragon』 summoned by the 「Dragonne」, or 『Napoleon Bonaparte』 summoned by the 「Beastia」, had in fact showed remarkable battle results.

However, the youth before her did not look like someone of their caliber in any way, no aspiration or desire could be seen from that ambitionless expression.

Normally speaking, shouldn't he be more flustered after being summoned to another world, or be shocked or something……?

(—No, that's rude.)

Judging a person by his looks was a foolish act.

Rather, the fact that he was not shocked might be his nobleness.

……Though he only seemed to be in a daze no matter how one looked at it.

(No no no no.)

Tifalycia retorted herself once more in her heart.

Hero's power is **Destiny**!

Destiny was treated equally as mana in **Aquatera Realm**.

The higher that power, the greater the **Hero's** Authority — **Realtà** would become.

In other words, **Destiny** was exactly the evaluation of the qualification for another world's **Hero**.

Recollecting herself, taking a deep breath, Tifalycia tried to look at Reiji's **Destiny**.

"……Eh?"

The result once again shocked her.

"**Destiny** is…zero……?"

Destiny could be measured by just sending a minuscule amount of mana to the irises.

As long as he was another world's **Hero**, his body would definitely let out **Destiny**.

However, there was absolutely none in him.

Unprecedented. Completely out of expectations.

(Don't tell me……is it because I'm a failure?)

In other words.

The **Hero Summon** had failed—?

"Oi you there, you can't just summon me out of the blue like that."

Tifalycia raised her face at the youth's voice.

His voice was more composed than she thought, yet as sluggish as she expected.

He crossed his arms, frowned his brows, clearly showing dissatisfaction.

“Not giving your own name, calling my name on your own. And to suddenly feel disappointed for some unknown reason on top of that…… Another world these days are quite horrible.”

“Ah……E-Excuse me. I am Tifalycia Cleargreen. I am the Lord of Tistel, the seventh province of Granlem. Granlem is—”

“Aah you can skip that.”

Reiji waved his arm as if it was too troublesome, then scratched his head and spoke with dead fish like eyes.

“Instead of that, what’s the deal with summoning a NEET to another world? Are you an idiot? You want to die?”

“……Nii…to?”

At the same time as that mutter, **Idea Language** mechanism activated, allowing Tifalycia to understand the meaning of the term.

NEET: Not going to school, not working, a society leech that does not study or contribute.

Towards Tifalycia, who was blanking out by a bunch of words far from **Hero** like joined up together.

“Ah? Did you just think that I’m not a NEET because I’m still a student now?”

Reiji seemed to misunderstand that reaction, causing his mood to worsen, then strutted closer to Tifalycia, and glared at her from a close range.

“……Hii!”

He heaved a sigh and shrugged his shoulder exaggeratedly, not minding Tifalycia retreating on reflex from having a male suddenly getting close.

“You don’t get it, you just don’t get it. Look, ok? NEET is not a term like how people defined them to be originally. Do you understand? Not going to school, not working, those are just on the surface.”

His words became more passionate. His voice got louder.

“School? Don’t go if too boring. Work? Don’t do if too troublesome. Don’t do things you don’t want to do. Rather, don’t do things apart from what you want to do! The resolve of a person actually carrying out such an obvious matter! It is not something as shallow as what those people label!”

“U-Umm—”

“Basically, NEET is all about the spirit!!”

“……”

The meaning…could not be comprehended.

No, what he said could be understood. The **Idea Language** were created for the sake of solving the language problems between the various races. Due to that, while regrettable, the words went through.

However.

“……Umm……in other words, you are……that NEET?”

“That’s what I have been saying since just now. Rather, it’s tiring to keep standing so can I just sit down?”

Saying so, he immediately sat down on the altar.

“Haa……Even though I’m tired from going to school after such a long time today. What kind of penalty game is this for summoning me to another world on my way back? Seriously ridiculous.”

He grumbled out with his arms crossed, feeling troublesome from his heart.

ヤッ!!

Tifalycia was…

“U……U……Umm……”

The girl, who in order to clear away her mother’s dishonor, held on with extraordinary willpower, worked hard, put in all her effort, and finally succeeded in the summoning ritual was…

“Then, eh, about having you fight in the **Heroic War** as a **Hero** is……”

“Hah? I won’t do that obviously.”

Instantly.

Rejected like a matter of course.

Pah.

The sound of something snapping came from inside Tifalycia’s head.

“S-S—Stop fooling around!!”

As Tifalycia raised her voice, a corner of her heated up mind thought as if it was another person’s matter.

Aah, how long had it been, since the last time she felt that much emotion.

That much — That much anger!

“Y-Y-You, do you not understand your own position!? **Hero** is an existence chosen to carry the responsibility and the great expectations of the entire

race, or you can say the country the summoner belongs to, you know!? To reject that—”

“Who cares.”

Who. Cares.

With just two words in response, Tifalycia felt that she might collapse.

However, the **Hero**, who was already lying down and not sitting, looked at Tifalycia.

“Ooh, a beautiful blonde elf girl looking so fragile is wonderful. Good, show me more.”

She almost wanted to throw a punch. It was the first time since she was born that she wanted to beat up someone.

Not knowing how Tifalycia thought, Reiji continued in a lazy tone.

“Rather, even though I don’t know a single thing about this world, telling me to become a **Hero** and carry the responsibility of a country, can’t you understand that I’m troubled to give a reaction?”

“Th-That irritating way of speaking……”

No no no, calm down.

Taking a deep breath, Tifalycia calmly ruminated over his words.

—Not knowing about the world, so such a reaction could not be helped.

It was certainly so.

“……I understand. First, let me brief you on how this world is established, and why you have been summoned.”

“Ah, un. Make it short.”

Not interested. His face clearly showed that, but Tifalycia intentionally ignored his face and spoke.

In the past — There were no intelligent species existing in this world.

Beautiful sky and sea, rich land with a large variety of plants and animals.

During the peaceful flow of time, 『They』 appeared at the same time, it could be destiny in a way.

From seven different worlds which received the fate of ruination, seven races transported to this world through the 『Gate』.

Boasting excellent fighting ability, the 「Dragonne」.

Living in water with the ability to control the flow of water, the 「Sirena」.

Shunning other races while having beautiful appearances, the 「Elf」.

Possessing various kinds of physical abilities, the 「Beastia」.

Gentle but having many idealists, the「El Blanche」.

Having no contact with other races, the mysterious 「Strega」.

And not possessing any magical conception, the 「Infirma」.

Except the 「Infirma」 which had no means of fighting nor territory to fight for, the rest of the races fought against one another to obtain the hegemony of the world.

It was when the war carved the threat of extinction deeply into those races.

In order to avoid the worst case scenario of total extinction of all races, they created a world law together—

"……That is called **The Great Contract Law**, a law to enforce the contract to be carried out."

Outside the chapel, at the place Tifalycia's finger pointed to.

A Cube was floating in the blue sky, releasing mysterious light.

Maintaining a slow and constant self-rotation, that was exactly the manifestation of the absolute magic that was implemented on all the races living in **Aquatera Realm** without any exception.

"Under the great magic, we have established the contract of 『Forbid Fundamental Fighting』(TLN: FFF organization), making the act of harming others impossible. Even so, when fighting still occurred between the races, the **Heroes** summoned from other worlds as exceptions will be the center role to fight in **Heroic War**—"

"Aah hold on a moment. About that **The Great Contract Law**…"

Reiji, who was unexpectedly listening properly, spoke without changing his lying posture.

“I get that it has magical enforcement power for the sake of ensuring the contract is carried out, are there other conditions to use that? For instance, is it impossible for 「Infirma」 who cannot use magic?”

“……No, since it is a magic that is casted on this world itself, the mana of the individual does not matter. In fact, when 「Infirma」, who cannot use magic, establishes a contract with the employer, it also uses that. What is required is just the 『Mutual understanding & Agreement』 between the two parties.”

“『Mutual Understanding & Agreement』 huh……won’t it be difficult for the entire race to acknowledge? If there are those who dislike violence, **Heroic War** cannot even be carried out.”

“No, **Heroic War** is established by the representatives of the races — between the **Rulers**.”

“**Ruler**?”

“They are individuals acknowledged under **Great Contract Magic** to be their races’ representatives, and they establish a special contract to decide for their races. **Heroic War** is established under this authorization—”

“Aah, that means it’s useless even if others complain huh. If the **Ruler** decided to do it, it represents the race’s will then.”

“You can say that, but……in the first place, although you are free to use offensive magic during **Heroic War**, the ultimate principle of 『Forbid Killing』 still have to be kept. So there isn’t anyone extremely against it.”

“Hmm……Simplistic.”

“Eh?”

“Nothing. By the way, this 『Mutual Understanding & Agreement』, does it also apply to this **Hero Summon** used to summon me?”

“Of course. The moment the **Hero** responded to the summoner’s plead, both sides have reached mutual understanding and agreement, hence automatically establishing the contract. The Seal of Race will be somewhere on the body as proof.”

“Eh, no way, seriously? Where, where?”

Reiji got up and took off his outer clothes, making himself half-naked.

“K—Kyaaaa!? WW-Wh-What are—”

“Well, I want to confirm that obviously. Aah this?”

A flower seal appeared on his chest where his finger pointed, but the embarrassed Tifalycia stubbornly looked away.

“I-If it’s **Six Flower in Full Bloom**, that’s the Seal of 「Elf」!”

“Seal of 「Elf」……Aah, it’s about the seal of the contracted race appearing huh.”

“Th-That’s right……Hurry up and wear your clothes already!”

“You’re making such a big fuss over only the upper half of a guy. You should have seen it before, right?”

“Never!!”

“……Haah, never huh. I see. Well, I don’t know if you are bad around guys, but you sure are a selfish one for summoning me yourself.”

“There’s no way I can specify the gender……!”

“Well, I suppose. You won’t be summoning a NEET if you can specify those details.”

“……Rather, the person coming from another world to be summoned as a **Hero** should only be someone who has agreed.”

As she stared grudgingly at Reiji, he tilted his head.

“If you are unsatisfied, you can send me back to my original world, you know? Though I don’t know if it’s possible.”

“It’s obviously not possible!? I would have done it long ago if I could!!”

She could no longer reverse it. Her eyes became watery.

Even though she finally, finally summoned the **Hero**.

With his **Destiny** zero, furthermore, motivation zero and delicacy zero.

What he had was a weird conviction of not doing anything he did not want to do, a NEET **Hero** that could not really be called a **Hero**.

That NEET **Hero** purposely sighed out loudly, and shamelessly spoke.

“Well, it can’t be helped if I can’t return. I will have you take responsibility for it then.”

“……Ha?”

“I told you, right? I’m a NEET. And unlike those improper NEET, I’m an elite NEET. You, who have summoned this elite NEET here, are responsible for providing the suitable environment for me to do what I want like in my original world!”

“Wh……What shameless words you are saying so proudly……”

“Or are you a scum who doesn’t care about the person you selfishly summoned!?”

“Who is the scum here!?”

“Well, honestly speaking, it’s already absolutely unforgivable the moment there’s no Internet here. I barely forgave you because you are a beautiful girl, and an elf on top of that, you know?”

An instance of killing intent welled up. It was her first time thinking of killing someone even as a joke since her birth.

……She already, already wanted to just give up on everything.

When Tifalycia was about to fall into despair she had never felt ever since her mother died, Reiji spoke to her.

“Well, the practical problem is, didn’t something actually go wrong? Something about that summoning ritual.”

“There is no way that can happen!……Not…supposed to.”

Not…supposed to……As Tifalycia was thinking about it, she raised her face after noticing Reiji looking at her with an evil smile.

“I-In the first place, only a minority of people in 「Elf」 can summon a **Hero** — Only people carrying the royal blood can!”

“Heeh, you are a member of the royalty huh.”

“Y-Yeah. Royalty’s……A person connected to royalty.”

“Hmm, connected to the royalty of 「Elf」, huh.”

“Y-You got a problem?”

“Well, not really?”

While gaining distrust at those words with implications, Tifalycia continued.

“Currently, us 「Elf」 do not have a **Hero**. If other races fight us, we will be in a serious disadvantage. Therefore, I have summoned the **Hero** for the sake of the 「Elf」, and established a contract—”

“That’s it. The problem is the contract part. That **Great Contract Magic** must have gone wrong.”

Reiji pointed at the cube floating in the sky.

“Only that is impossible.”

Tifalycia confidently spoke.

“**Great Contract Magic** is the eternal absolute law created by constructing with the [Absolute Unique Magic], which includes the prestige of all the races. Not anyone can escape from its effect.”

“Heeh.”

“……You seriously don’t believe it, do you?”

“Well, because I never actually saw it. I was certainly summoned, but I don’t really feel any enforcement power activating. Rather, I still don’t feel like working!”

At the **Hero’s** forceful speech, Tifalycia sighed, then pushed out her chest and recollected herself.

“—Fine. Then I will show it to you in practice.”

“Hmm? About establishing a contract?”

“Yes. I will give out a simple condition to actually make a contract right now. Then you also—”

“No, that won’t do.”

“Eh?”

“If you use what you prepared, I won’t be able to tell if it’s from **Great Contract Magic** or — the magic used by 「Elf」.”

“Ah, no, what 「Elf」 uses is mainly [Analytical Magic]……Not to mention, umm, I…”

“No matter what you say, I don’t have any objective evidence to judge whether that’s true at this moment. So it should be me to give out the condition, isn’t that so?”

“—”

He unexpectedly thought through properly.

Ignoring Tifalycia, who was having such rude thoughts, Reiji fished around in his school bag, and took out a tasteless metallic collar from inside.

“For example, I want to make you wear this. Let’s see, 『Unless I decide so, you must keep wearing this collar contract』, what is necessary to establish it?”

“……Umm…why…that contract……? Maybe it’s different in your world, but a collar is worn by livestocks and pets in our world, so it has a very humiliating meaning……”

“Un, that’s the same in my world.”

“Then, even more so—”

“Even more so, you would not do that normally, right? In other words, it’s about testing the enforcement power of **Great Contract Magic** by making you do something you would never do without establishing a contract.”

“……Haa.”

There’s something wrong here and there, but it was at least logical.

It’s not like she would continue to wear it forever, it could not be helped if it was to test the effect of the contract.

After at least confirming the surrounding, Tifalycia took the collar and closed her eyes.

“Then……「**I, Tifalycia Cleargreen, under the Great Contract Magic, will wear this collar and pledge to Houbami Reiji—**」

In an instant along with the declaration, something like pale light spread out, and Tifalycia naturally wore the collar in her hand onto her thin neck.

“With this, as long as you do not cancel this contract—”

While saying so, Tifalycia’s hand was deflected by light with a zap sound as she tried to take off the collar. A small magic formation appeared for an instant.

“Like this, the power of **Great Contract Magic** prevents the collar to be taken off.”

“Heeh……I don’t really have to do anything, but a declaration from one side alone can make it happen huh.”

“No. I don’t even have to declare. Since what’s necessary is mutual understanding and agreement.”

“Aah, by mutually understanding 『Unless I decide so, you must keep wearing this collar contract』, and with both parties agreeing to it, just that is enough huh. Some sort of light is the proof, and the **Rulers** will be doing this in the case of **Heroic War**.”

“Yes. When it’s between individuals, it will only affect the two people involved, but the contract between two **Rulers** will affect the entire race.”

“I see. Now I get it.”

“……Then, this collar—”

Please take it off.

Before she could finish.

“Aah, that will explode if taken off, so it’s impossible.”

He shamelessly…

Spoke some incomprehensible things.

“……Ha?”

“Do you know about plastic bomb? Well, you can simply think of it as explosion magic. About that, it’s already fixed in a form that defusing it is impossible. So it’s impossible to take it off. Well, it’s another story if you are fine with everything above your neck being blown away.”

“———Haaaaaa!?”

Not sure how it worked, but taking off the collar would cause a magical impact that would blow away everything above her neck. Knowing just that, Tifalycia removed her hands from the collar in a hurry.

Then, noticing that doing so would not solve anything, she screamed again.

“T…T…Take it off! Please take it off! In a way that won’t blow off my neck!!”

“HAHAHAHA — Well, didn’t I say that it’s impossible? I also don’t know any method of removing it without it exploding.”

“W…W…W…W……Why this……”

“Well well, there’s no harm even if you don’t take it off, right? Don’t worry about it.”

“I will worry!! There’s no way I won’t worry about it!? Please think about it from my perspective!!”

“Aah that’s it.”

Unexpectedly.

Reiji’s voice changed to a cold tone.

“What I want to tell you is that.”

“……Eh?”

“Well, I heard about **Hero**, contract, and various other things, if I summarize all that…

You just one-sidedly became my master, right?”

Unknowingly.

Reiji, who was supposed to be lying down, stood up.

Facing directly before her, he spoke with a sarcastic smile.

“Coming to this world is treated as automatically acknowledging the contract? Reaching mutual understanding and agreement at the moment of responding to the summon? Without a choice, one-sidedly being summoned and establishing a contract — Can you accept that? Try thinking about it from my perspective.”

He shrugged his shoulder and turned around.

Slowly — he turned his head back.

“Furthermore, on top of the summoner being in the weak faction currently without a **Hero**, she is also a ruined royalty despite inheriting the royal bloodline.”

“Wh—”

Why…does he.

Before she could ask, Reiji narrowed his eyes with a sharp glare.

“Looking at the eyes of the person you are talking to, showing minor conspicuous reactions, speaking with a voice loud and clear — these are the traits indicating that you have a serious and honest personality. An honest person has a strong inclination to avoid lies by instinct. When calling you a member of royalty has a possibility of causing misunderstanding, you unconsciously changed your words to correctly express it.”

“—”

While Tifalycia opened her eyes in shock as the habit she herself was unaware of was pointed out one by one, he calmly continued as if expecting all her reactions.

“Forced to have a powerless person as master. One-sidedly establishing a contract, holding onto the initiative — even if I myself wished for living in another world, I would not feel good, right?”

He laughed and laughed foolishly.

Only his eyes were coldly staring at her.

Tifalycia thought. She had to think.

What if.

What if, since the moment he was summoned to the chapel, all the while until now.

If he had been acting only with the current situation in consideration.

Showing an unmotivated attitude on the surface, while calmly, slyly observing the world, thinking about the individual known as Tifalycia, if that was the case—

—No, not what if.

The reality was just like that.

Reiji had clearly simulated the current situation.

As for why — If Tifalycia had been cornered by those sound arguments up to that much, she could only continue with one sentence.

"……Then, what should I do……to make you accept?"

The contract established between the **Hero** from the **Hero Summon** and the summoner was just vaguely appointing the summoner as the master, and the **Hero** as the servant.

According to the contract, the **Hero** would have the seal carved on them and be unable to change their master, basically unable to leave for any race

outside of the race the summoner belonged to, but — there was no restriction apart from that.

That was originally sufficient.

The **Hero** did not care about the contract, they only wanted the battlefield where they could fully demonstrate their own abilities, enjoying hot-blooded action.

However, he was different.

Tifalycia herself could not help but acknowledge the unfairness pointed out by Reiji, hence making a certain amount of revision like a compromise was necessary between the **Hero** and the summoner.

What kind of unreasonable demand would come out……

As Tifalycia gulped and tensed up her body in vigilance.

“Aah sorry about making you scared.”

Reiji casually waved his hand to swipe away the tense atmosphere up to then.

“I’m not really complaining about being summoned, alright?”

“……Ha?”

“What I’m saying is that the backer behind me in another world, my caretaker being an uncertain factor worries me. You don’t seem reliable no matter how I look, right?”

“Wh……”

“It’s the truth, isn’t it? I have already said this much in fact.”

Certainly, she also felt that she had some problem after being told by the NEET that much.

“Th-That’s why I’m asking what I need to do to make you accept it!”

“Hmm, let’s see, something too troublesome would be dull……Aah that’s right.”

Reiji changed from deep in thought behavior, and did a palm fist tap.

“I will have a simple 「**Showdown**」 with you.”

“……「**Showdown**」?”

“Isn’t it a great idea? An easy to understand black and white method.”

“……What exactly is that kind of method?”

To Tifalycia’s question, he took out his wallet from his pocket and deftly rotated it to drop a coin onto his palm.

“How about guessing head or tail?”

“This is truly…simple, but……what can you tell from the outcome of this?”

Winning or losing did not have any relevance.

As Tifalycia asked doubtfully.

“Any and every thing.”

Reiji smiled with mysterious confidence.

“The reason a **Hero** is summoned is for the **Heroic War**. In other words, there’s nothing easier to understand than a showdown. Showdown is obviously related to luck as well. I am worried about your reliability on this point. That’s why I want to feel relieved. So that I can laze around by being under you without reserve.”

“……No, please be reserved on that.”

She thought while at least retorting to him.

The **Heroic War** was certainly about 「**Showdown**」, and the result could be affected by luck.

As killing was forbidden, the victory was not purely decided by fighting strength. Compatibility, momentary luck……in fact, luck could also be said to be the most important factor in determining the outcome sometimes.

Wanting to check the luck of the summoner who would be making him fight in the **Heroic War** could also be understandable.

However, she also wanted to avoid determining her luck with the head or tail of that one coin—

“Aah, by the way, the result is irrelevant.”

“Eh?”

“Of course, winning would be great. But the objective this time is only to make me feel relieved, isn’t it? Then, it will be fine if you let me think that I can follow you.”

“……Just that, is it?”

“Of course.”

—Oh what. She thought about what kind of bizarre demand he would make.

Basically, he was saying that he wanted to test if Tifalycia was a suitable master for him.

(I’m glad……)

Seeing Tifalycia patting her chest in relief, Reiji spoke with a bright smile.

“Oi oi, what did you think I am like? I’m just an unmotivated, doing only things I want to do, a normal person, you know?”

“Ah, that’s totally not normal, rather, that’s the worst.”

Making sure to emphasize that part, Tifalycia calmly continued.

“However, though I am being rude, I have a doubt. As the summoner, and as the master. Do you have some other bizarre demand or something?”

“No no, I have said it before, try thinking about it from my perspective. As the master — the person whose words one must listen to unconditionally, I hope that the person can be superior than me, isn’t it obvious to think so?”

That.

That could only be thought of as natural.

“……Certainly.”

Seeing that Tifalycia deeply nodded.

“Then, contract established!”

Reiji suddenly clapped his hands, and extended his hand straight to the surprised Tifalycia.

A hand thinner than what she expected. Watching him flipping the coin around his fingers deftly, Tifalycia spoke.

“……Ah, please wait a moment. Which side is the head of that coin?”

If she did not confirm that first, then there would be no showdown to talk about.

“Aah sorry about that, I didn’t tell you. Head is the side with this drawing, tail is the number……oh you can’t tell it’s number huh. Anyway, it’s this side.”

There could be a possibility of making a mistake by just looking, so she took it with her hand, turned the coin around, and confirmed the drawings on both sides.

“Although both sides look like only drawings, but……I understand the difference.”

Saying so, Tifalycia returned the coin.

Reiji spoke cheerfully.

“Then without further ado. 『Is the top of this coin head or tail』 —Make a guess.”

The coin rested above his palm.

He thrusted out his hand just like that.

And asked.

Tifalycia watched his every action, and confirmed that he would not be doing anything else.

“……Ha?”

『Is the top of this coin head or tail』?

No, leaving aside whether it was head or tail.

Reiji’s palm.

It’s — opened no matter how she looked.

“Umm……You hand…is still open.”

“Un, it’s open.”

“……Emm…I can see it, you know?”

“You can see it well. —So?”

Reiji tilted his head as if asking whether there was a problem.

That calm expression gave off an irritating feel.

“……Are you treating me like an idiot?”

“Idiot? Not really.”

“In that case, please ask a proper question. I won’t accept the victory of a showdown with this kind of obvious result.”

Tifalycia spoke without hiding her anger while pointing at the coin on his palm.

“Eh?”

Reiji showed an obvious troublesome reaction, and smirked.

Without moving his palm, he spoke.

“Then 『Is the bottom of this coin head or tail』. How about this?”

“—”

An unmotivated tone. A way of talking that clearly relayed his unserious attitude.

Tifalycia’s blood rushed up to her head in anger, and began to think seriously on how to answer Reiji to impress him.

“I will specially give you a hint. You will definitely give the wrong answer.”

A calm voice. A perspective gaze.

Looking at that smiling face, yet without any intention to smile, Tifalycia opened her eyes wide as if cold water just poured over her head.

……If she thought about it.

Tifalycia summoned the NEET **Hero** Reiji.

He was sloppy and unmotivated just as he looked, not a decent person.

Would such a him, despite the result being irrelevant, choose such an obvious showdown?

—There was no way that would happen.

In the first place, determining the quality of the master with just luck decided with a coin was not suitable.

In that case, the idiotic answer of the 「**Showdown**」 must have some catch.

『Is the bottom of this coin head or tail』

It was a situation where the top was showing 『Head』. In other words, it was a situation where anybody could tell that the bottom was 『Tail』, so what was the reason he asked about the bottom?

Seeing Tifalycia thinking seriously, Reiji spoke.

“Oops, you seem to be in distress all of a sudden. What could have happened?”

Hearing those provocative words, Tifalycia only twisted her expression without talking.

That just now was clearly to disrupt her thoughts. Obstruction appeared — In other words, it was the same as admitting that there was some trick in the showdown.

As expected, there was something about the coin.

Most likely the plan for Reiji's assured victory.

And there was a high possibility that he was testing Tifalycia's judging ability, observation ability, deduction ability in seeing through that plan.

(If there is a trick……a plan of assured victory……)

Think. Think.

Tifalycia even forgot to breathe.

"It can't be helped. I will specially give you another, a big hint."

Reiji's words sounded like a lifeline to her.

Seeing Tifalycia raising her face and straightening her long ears, he spoke.

"The result of any and all events with the element of showdown across all ages and places — has been decided before it started."

The result had been decided before it started……?

—Before it started?

At that moment, an inspiration flashed across her mind.

If the coin itself was fake from the start?

Of course, Tifalycia herself had touched the coin with her hand and confirmed it many times.

However, that was only to remember the pattern for head and tail of the coin, and not considered the possibility being a fake.

First, who was the person that induced her to confirm the pattern?

—It was Reiji himself.

Plan of assured victory, fake coin, inducing — there was no doubt about it.

“Fu…fufufu…fufufufufufufu……”

Tifalycia unconsciously laughed out loud, and Reiji watched her without any change in expression.

“Oh, what is it? Did your head turn strange?”

Ignoring his irritating words, Tifalycia breathed out.

“Regrettably. I have seen through the trick in your trap.”

“Hou? Then let me hear your answer.”

Tifalycia pointed her finger at Reiji’s face and spoke.

“I will be frank, the bottom of this coin is 『Head』!”

The visible top was 『Head』, the hidden bottom should have been 『Tail』.

If that was how it should be normally, the fake bottom would be 『Head』, same as the top.

Most likely, when Tifalycia confirmed the patterns on the coin, or after that, he used another coin — a fake coin with both sides as 『Head』 to replace it.

There was no doubt that he could easily do something like that with his dexterous fingers.

"……Fu…you did it."

Reiji, with his eyes closed, spoke as if praising his long-term rival, and flipped the coin on his hand over.

And then — gently told her.

"Well, it's the normal 『Tail』 though."

"——Eh."

『Tail』

Leaning her body closer, actually touching the coin on his hand, confirming that it was a number by knocking on it, Tifalycia was…

"Wh……Why…Why is it……?"

From her heart. From the bottom of her heart.

Glared at the question giver as if she could not be convinced.

Facing that inquisitive glare, Reiji emotionlessly spoke.

“Why? You ask a funny question. Obviously, this 『Determining the master with a luck game using a coin is nonsensical, so there has to be a trick to assure victory in this showdown, then it will be fine to answer the reverse of what is obvious since there is a trick』 deduction is what I incited you to make.”

“……Ha?”

“That’s just a simple psychological incitement by making use of cognitive dissonance. At least, I threw out a real hint, you know? When I mentioned about the unfairness of the contract, which part of you was I looking at? Why did you think that I am not a sloppy guy contrary to how I looked?”

“Th-That’s because you—”

As she said so, she noticed.

Getting to the truth by deducing from the words Tifalycia said.

Pointing out her personality through habits Tifalycia herself had not noticed.

Reiji had been observing Tifalycia ever since he was summoned.

Calmly observing, examining.

To get a grasp on the person known as Tifalycia Cleargreen.

As she felt that was the case, she thought that he would not behave like how he looked, and make it just a simple coin guess.

“That’s right. That’s the real hint I gave, the real hint I had to give. If you have followed the hint and thought that I am not as simple as how I looked, become vigilant and view me as a threat, you would have taken a step further in your answer. Of course, a serious and upright person as you are, you will absolutely not view me as a threat though.”

“……Then, then, the two hints you mentioned just now are…”

“Aah, of course they are strategies to guide you towards the wrong answer.”

“Wh…”

“Look here, let me ask you back, why must the question giver unconditionally provide the question answerer advantages?”

“That’s…out of kindness……”

“Ok you stupid girl.”

“S-Stupid girl!?”

“How many people in the world you live in have that kind of kindness? Why has 「Elf」 been forced to the point of not having a **Hero**?”

“That……is…”

“I’m not really saying that expecting kindness is bad. I’m saying that you must hold the corresponding resolve if you are expecting kindness. In this case, it is the resolve for the possibility of being deceived. If you only think

that you are deceived without having that resolve, then it is the responsibility of the side being deceived.”

Just like stating the facts.

Reiji indifferently piled up his words.

“If you don’t want to be mistaken, then doubt. If you don’t want to doubt, then have the resolve to be wrong. Without resolve, without doubting, only to lament when after getting wrong is — just an idiot.”

“____”

“Well, I 『already know』 that you can’t do that though. Just like looking at the answer while solving the question.”

Already know. Already know — Tifalycia’s personality, preference and inclination.

And if he already knew her personality, preference and inclination, then he also knew how she would think, reach what kind of conclusion and how to act.

Therefore.

“Didn’t I say so? The result has been decided before it started.”

He laughed foolishly and lightly shrugged his shoulders.

That behavior, which only felt irritating before, made her helplessly feel coldness.

Tifalycia muttered as if something drove her to.

“You are……you, who exactly are you?”

To that question of Tifalycia’s.

Reiji smiled thinly.

“I said it many times already. NEET, I’m a NEET. I don’t do things I don’t want to do, only do things I want to do — for the sake of what I want to do, I have maintained my identity as a high school student, built up a superficial social relationship, completely honed myself in the way of con artist (Social Hacking) — a NEET.”

—Tifalycia did not know.

In a world far away, a number of inexplicable incidents occured.

Once, every public institution within the country were hacked, losing control for tens of hours.

Once, an infamous international major criminal organization was destroyed from inside due to a sudden internal conflict.

Once, a territorial conflict just ended with a totally incomprehensible reason.

All of that was done by only one person……with scrupulous conversation technique, detailed human observation only, the good neighbor (Social Hacker) completely grasped on the target — the con artist known as [0/2] (One SecOnd) caused all those.

He, who wore the surface identity of a high school student, caused all those major incidents with the reason being because it would be interesting.

A summoner from another world such as she would never know it.

Just, what Tifalycia knew was that the youth known as Reiji was an abnormal **Hero** with zero **Destiny**, but possessed the 『Power』 she was seeking for in the actual meaning.

Certainly, he might not have the qualification to be a **Hero** in the normal sense.

However, that magnificent observation ability, conversation technique, were what Tifalycia wanted more than a normal **Hero**.

(If it's this person — if I can learn the techniques of this person……!)

Once that thought bloomed, Tifalycia suddenly moved closer, to the distance their faces almost touched…

"**Hero** Reiji……"

Held his hand still holding onto the coin, and spoke from her heart.

"Your power — No, please teach me those techniques!"

An instant.

Just an instant, but Reiji opened his eyes wide and was definitely surprised.

A declaration that surprised him even though something like being summoned to another world did not.

To that straightforward request, Reiji showed a ferocious smile like never before.

“……Teach, teach huh — I see, that’s a little interesting.”

“……! Then…”

A feeling never more positive.

When Tifalycia unconsciously showed her elation.

“Un. Don’t wanna.”

“U……Eh?”

Tifalycia let out a voice unthinkable for a beautiful girl, blinked her big eyes a number of times without understanding what he said.

“Eh……Eh?”

“Did you not hear it? I said don’t wanna.”

He dug his ear.

The nonchalant Reiji looked at Tifalycia, who was in a condition of ceased thinking, and spoke.

“More importantly, for the time being, can you let go of my hand?”

The instant he said so.

A small magic formation deployed on Reiji’s hand which Tifalycia held, and forcefully pushed her away with a zap sound.

“—!?”

Tifalycia was the only one astonished.

She remembered that reaction.

“J-Just now is **Great Contract Magic**—”

Light of contract.

What. How. Why—?

As Tifalycia fell into a great confusion, Reiji spoke with his usual sloppy expression in a smirk.

“You still didn’t notice? The real objective I was aiming for with this 「**Showdown**」.”

“Real……objective?”

What Reiji wanted to see from guess the coin was Tifalycia’s qualification as a master.

“Y……You said that the outcome of this showdown is irrelevant—”

“Aah, yes I said that. The actual outcome of the showdown is irrelevant.”

“Then…”

“But I also said this, right? 『master should be the superior person』. Then, you nodded at that. You also believed that it was right. It satisfied the condition of 『Mutual Understanding & Agreement』.”

“……Eh?”

“Under **Great Contract Magic**, establishing a contract does not require words. What’s necessary is 『Mutual Understanding & Agreement』. In other words, at that instant, you have established the contract 『master should be the superior person』. —Now comes the question.”

Reiji said.

To a foolish student. Gently. Like lecturing.

“Between a person requesting to be taught, and a person teaching that person, who do you think is superior?”

“Don’t tell — me.”

The reason he suggested the 「**Showdown**」 of coin guessing.

It was not to test the qualification of Tifalycia as the master.

It was to make Tifalycia believe (forge the contract) that he was superior (the master), and reverse the fundamental master-servant relationship between the summoner and the **Hero**—?

Furthermore, it was not just for the sake of not letting the **Hero** belong to any race other than the summoner’s, but 『unconditionally listen to whatever that person says』 such absolute master-servant contract.

“N-No way……Because the contract of the **Hero Summon** is—”

“Unrelated it seems? Just like this.”

He randomly spoke 『Sit』 from his mouth, and Tifalycia sat on the floor along with the order.

“Well, I get the feeling that the contract established through **Hero Summon** is just a superficial one in name only according to your story. There’s no conflict with contracts established normally afterwards, right?”

“__”

“Aah, don’t worry, relax. The seal is still there, it means that there is no conflict and is still effective. The contract established just now is also something like 『believe to be superior』 and 『unconditionally listen to anything』 such vague interpretation, so there won’t be much enforcement power.”

More importantly, it would be more fun with a master (backing), adding that quietly, he once again lied down on the altar, and rested his chin on his hand.

“Well, that’s how it is.”

Towards Tifalycia sitting before him with a humiliated expression, he spoke with a good smile.

“Please take care of me from now on, Master.”

Chapter 2:
NEET and the Mysterious Princess

Like that — One month had passed since Tifalycia became a servant known as master.

Hero Reiji, who should have been the servant, would incite Tifalycia to have a 「**Showdown**」 whenever she complained about having an improvement to their relationships.

Tifalycia had continued to lose completely due to various reasons—

Receiving punishment games everyday as such.

“Oo……”

Reiji glanced at Tifalycia, who was sitting on the bed, and nodded thoroughly with a sense of accomplishment.

“My masterpiece is complete — cat-eared elf.”

Elf ear itself was one of the supreme arts. Then the reckless act of adding another ultimate art of cat ear on top of it.

Taking a closer look at it, it had surpassed the out-of-place feeling about having four ears, and portrayed a feeling of ‘Wonderful things added to wonderful things will give you nothing other than more wonderful things’ to the extreme.

“Well well, one should try it out without dismissing it first……Though it’s a simple addition, to think that such a harmony can be made.”

Glaring sideways at Reiji who was immersed in his own ingenuity, Tifalycia, who was wearing a cat-ear headband, continued to be watched like that, she could not stop his actions despite trembling with shame and embarrassment.

That was because she lost in a 「**Showdown**」.

Contracts established under the **Great Contract Magic** must be carried out as long as life and death was not involved.

Since Tifalycia said 『I will listen to anything if I lose this 「**Showdown**」』, she could not reject Reiji’s wish.

As Tifalycia made poses she was told to on the bed, she showed minimum resistance by opening her mouth, which was the only part that was allowed freedom.

“Why do you have something like this……”

He had been carrying a bag when he was summoned to this world.

The cat-ear headband was taken out from that bag, but even if it was another world, she could tell that it was weird for a male to carry such a

thing.

“That’s because I like it? It’s obvious that you want to keep things that you like close to you. That collar is also the same.”

“Eh. Th-This bomb as well?”

“Eh?”

“Eh?”

As Tifalycia parroted his reaction back at him while tilting her head as if it was strange in an unexpected way, Reiji did an understanding gesture by doing a palm fist tap.

“Aah, that story about it exploding eh. You still believed it huh. —That’s a lie.”

“Ha?”

“That’s a normal choker.”

“—Eeeeeeh!?”

“To think that you have believed it all this while. I’m surprised.”

“I-I am the one who is surprised!? Why didn’t you say so earlier!”

“Well, I never thought that you would believe it. Rather — you should be able to notice that it is not a bomb if you think about it.”

As if it was obvious. He continued.

“Let’s consider adding a bomb to the collar. For what reason should I do that?”

“Eh……th-that’s……Like…to threaten me to listen to you or else it will explode……”

“Did I ever say that?”

“__”

He never said that.

Not even once ever since then — he never said that the collar had a bomb.

“Then…Then, making me put on the collar at that time was—”

“Well, a beautiful elf girl with a collar is the best!”

As Reiji showed a radiant smile, Tifalycia’s shoulders sank.

Terrible……

That was too terrible, but what Reiji said was also true.

At that time, if she properly thought about it — she would have noticed.

And that could also apply to the showdown just now.

“About why I let my opponent choose the method of showdown……”

The foolish act of letting Reiji choose the method of the showdown when it was Tifalycia who had challenged him.

She naturally let Reiji choose it because she felt that he would not accept her showdown if she did not do so, but she understood now that she was calm.

Making her think so, and then conceding the method of showdown to him was Reiji's battle plan itself.

"There is no need to choose your methods for the sake of winning. No matter how despicable it is, it will be justified for the sake of victory. As long as it is not forbidden, you can't be blamed even if you use tools."

"……Uuuu."

Reiji smirked as he saw that Tifalycia was unable to rebuke him because she also understood that, then he suddenly did the same gesture as earlier.

"Well, that's all for today. Well, that was fun."

As Tifalycia knew that those words meant that the 『Punishment Game』 was over, she got down from the bed dejectedly, and walked out of the room with her shoulder slumped.

"Well then, see you tomorrow. Please give me a good time, Master?"

"Gu……You are the one who should watch out tomorrow—"

"Yes, good night."

He closed the door without letting her finish.

{Wh — How many times have I told you that such an attitude is rude!!}

{……Um, Mistress Tifalycia? What are you shouting……}

{……!? N-Nothing much — It's nothing}

{What you are wearing on your head is……?}

{Ah!? Y-You're wrong, this is…emm—}

Reiji heard Tifalycia making poor excuses to the servant, then heaved a big sigh after confirming that her voice was far away.

"……Ah, so tired."

Although he chose it himself, continuing to act as a character was quite exhausting after all.

"Although — It's mostly proceeding according to the schedule."

Reiji, who purposely smirked and spoke with the awareness that he was currently 『An evil and immoral NEET **Hero**』, erased his expression the next instant.

He surveyed the wide, or rather overly wide room just like that.

The decorations in the room was luxurious to the eyes of a commoner, but were probably frugal if considering from the standpoint of a royalty.

One month had passed since he was summoned to this world.

Reiji slowly walked around in the room he got used to, and stopped before the huge bed.

It was the fluffy bed Tifalycia was lying on just a while ago.

He plunged into it — pretended to.

And spoke quietly.

“You’re already exposed — Leu.”

Something responded to the phrase Leu.

The bedding squirmed and a face popped out.

A beautiful girl with a dreadfully perfect face.

With porcelain like white skin, ruby pupils blinking, she — Leu tilted her head and her silver hair spread out on the white sheets swayed along with it.

“……How…did you know?”

Contrary to her words, her voice had no intonations.

Coupled with her appearance, she looked just like a doll, Reiji sighed.

“Is there any meaning to that question?”

“What do…you mean?”

He could not help but continue as she seemed to want to feign ignorance to the bitter end.

“……What you used just now is only the power to move between the shadows. The things that can make a shadow in this room, acting as a natural hiding place, are extremely limited.”

“……I see.”

“That is just a facade — You, you probably will appear from any place I speak from the start, right?”

“—!”

She, who had no fluctuations in her expression until then, showed something similar to surprise for the first time.

And with that, she spoke with a euphoric-like color overflowing from her pupils.

“……As expected of…Master.”

Confirming that reaction that he was used to seeing, Reiji breathed out a long sigh as if he was sick of it.

“Look here……that same thing, you seem to have done it yesterday and the day before. How many more times do you want to repeat it before you are satisfied, Leu-san?”

“No matter how many times.”

“Oi……”

“The splendor of Master, be it today or tomorrow — I want to confirm it everyday.”

That completely emotionless speech could only sound like a joke, but regrettably, Reiji knew that she seriously meant it.

“—No good?”

The cool girl tilted her small head as she asked that, that cute behavior was foul play.

In addition, she was lying defenselessly on the bed.

Her silver hair spread out on the white sheets. Those hidden slim thighs occasionally peeked out, the porcelain-like white skin that might break if touched, they were seducing Reiji.

Tearing away from the gaze of those red pupils that could charm him if he was careless, Reiji scratched his head intentionally to let his thoughts fly back to one month ago.

Reiji's plan that was mostly proceeding according to schedule.

It could be said to be the only exception.

The girl known as Leu — the encounter with the princess of 「Strega」.

The seventh day since he came to **Aquatera Realm**.

On one hand, Reiji had been dealing with Tifalycia, who would challenge him to a 「**Showdown**」 occasionally, while on the other hand, he completely neglected his duty as the **Hero**.

Furthermore, he ignored her attempt to redirect his attention by using the reason that some other country might have spies infiltrating, and calmly extended his activities outside of the castle.

Basically, he was living as he pleased just like what he declared he would.

Not doing things he did not want to do, doing things he wanted to do—

Hence.

The decision to go to that place was definitely not from his obligation as a **Hero**.

“……Hmm. This is **Heroic War** huh.”

Reiji alone was sitting on a big rock at high ground, and observing the flashy magical battle spread out beneath.

In a world where harming others (violence) was made impossible by the **Great Contract Magic**, only **Heroic War** was a place where people were able to remove that restriction of non-violence.

If he looked up, a huge magic formation spread out with the Cube as its center, its surrounding was filled with writings in **Idea Language** going around in a swirl.

Heroic War

「Beastia」 Napoleon Bonaparte

VS

「Sirena」 Taigoubou[2]

Field: Tolsel Rocky Zone

Victory Condition: Subjugation of the enemy **Hero**

Victory Reward: 「Beastia」 Lendia’s governance

「Sirena」 Teartoro’s concession

The reason for the various projections similar to match screens of games seemed to be a form of fairness by letting outsiders know apart from the involved parties.

As for the point on how to fight when there were supposed to be no casualty, he had confirmed with Tifalycia that achieving 『Touch the opponent’s seal』 seemed to be it. Quite the thoroughness.

“Even so — Napoleon and Taigoubou huh.”

Although he had information beforehand, it was an incredulous dream stage. A historian would be swooning from that.

He did not know which one was Taigoubou, but Napoleon should be the robust man riding on the horse and encouraging his troops at the center of the battlefield. Although that figure seemed to differ slightly from the one in the textbook, it indeed seemed like him.

The difference between the 「Beastia」 he was leading and 「Sirena」 was also interesting.

The special physical traits of 「Beastia」, which were demi-humans with animal ears and tails growing on them, and 「Sirena」, which were demi-humans with fin-like features after looking more closely, were one thing, their ways of fighting were also quite different.

Compared to the 「Sirena」, which formed a solid defense line and kept throwing long distance water element magic as if to keep the enemies in check, the 「Beastia」 raised their physical abilities with [Self-

strengthening Magic], and kept attacking without concern about the amount of sacrifices made.

Considering the compatibility, 「Beastia」 could only be seen as reckless, but 「Sirena」 was the side that was being pushed, 「Beastia」 would probably win in the end.

As far as Reiji could see, the difference in morale was too obvious.

Or rather — was 「Sirena」 seriously fighting?

"……Well, whatever."

Saying so, Reiji switched on the power of the smartphone he took out from the pocket, while recording the battle scene, he thought again.

In that one week.

Hearing the stories from Tifalycia and the servants in the castle, he had roughly grasped the basics of this world.

Food culture was what he was worried about the most, but luckily it ended as needless worry, and other culture gaps also started to fill up, with the preparation of the plan carrying on.

Hence, the problem was…

"There's no Internet huh."

He was summoned when he was outside, so he had carried the minimum electronic devices needed, but obviously not radio wave.

As he simulated the situation of having no power source or radio wave one day, he obtained a solar charger, truly necessary Apps and tools, but it still pained him that GPS function could not be used.

In the first place, be it another world or afterlife, information controlled everything. If the best gathering method that was the Internet could not be used, then he had to find the next best alternative.

He already thought of one thing, but he hoped that there could be other more suitable methods.

Therefore—

“Must actively take action — Don’t you think so?”

As if it was obvious that someone was there.

Reiji turned around and faced the depths of the forest as he spoke.

There was no sound replying from the quiet forest.

Far from that, there wasn’t even any figure of people within Reiji’s field of vision.

If Tifalycia had been at the place, she would probably think that Reiji’s reaction was strange. She might even suspect his sanity depending on situation. However, in the next instant, she would raise an astonished voice.

Because from the place where there nothing was there one moment before, a silhouette appeared.

Amazing silver hair. Cold ruby pupils. Perfectly-shaped face.

Even though she had sickly white skin, a black robe like solidified darkness wrapped around her, the girl opened her mouth quietly.

“—How…did you know?”

An emotionless voice that would make one suspect if she truly wanted to ask.

Reiji immediately answered.

“Know what?”

“……How did you know that I am scouting here?”

“Aah so you are doing reconnaissance huh.”

“……”

He felt a shiver of cold running through his spine.

Reiji calmly understood that as something called bloodthirst, and lightly shrugged his shoulders despite that.

“I just think that if someone was to observe me, that person could only be there, you know? I moved here for that sake after all.”

Hearing that answer, the girl slightly opened her eyes wider.

Regardless of it being an enemy or a friend, Reiji assumed that someone was tailing him.

He moved to a place that would only have one spot to observe him from if someone was to be observing him, and pretended to speak in a way as if he

already noticed.

If there was someone, then that person could only answer, if not then that’s all.

A defensive measure with no demerit.

“Well, if there is someone tailing me, reconnaissance from another race has the highest possibility.”

—And, that was at a very good timing to Reiji.

Reiji smirked within his heart, but nonchalantly spoke without showing it.

“Anyway, we met on this rare occasion. Won’t you chat with me a little? I just happen to be free—”

“That is unnecessary.”

She interrupted.

The ground — no, the girl entered her own shadow, then appeared right before Reiji from his shadow in the next moment.

Looking from a closer distance, her chic beauty stood out even more.

Before Reiji could appreciate it for a few milliseconds, he held his breath after confirming that the robe of the girl wriggled and reached for his neck in the next instant.

He could feel the prickly sharp things poking at him even through his muffler.

“……Ha? What’s this?”

“Something to take your — **Hero’s** life.”

Hearing her disturbing words, Reiji was more confused than anxious.

“No no, what’s the point of doing this…”

“I won’t do meaningless things.”

The girl clearly declared, and blandly continued.

“**Great Contract Magic** prevents all unlawful violence……if you think like that…”

The robe thrusted at him dug deeper.

“Foolish.”

“……Oi oi, I heard that it is 『Like that』 though?”

“While protecting the **Great Contract Magic**, there are countless ways of cornering people.”

Reiji pondered without responding to her words.

Why was the **Hero** of 「Elf」 not present?

The reason, the method.

If the girl before him knew about it.

“……I see. Even the **Hero** is not risk free.”

As the girl kept quiet without responding, Reiji sighed.

“Then it can’t be helped huh.”

He relaxed all at once, and turned his face sideway to reveal his neck.

“Then please make it quick.”

Reiji’s action and words caused her to blank out for a moment before speaking.

“……Are you giving up……? Even though you are a **Hero**.”

The phrase ‘even though you are a **Hero**’ caused Reiji to sigh “That again huh”.

“Look here, though I don’t know what kind of ideal you hold towards beings like **Heroes**, I am a NEET. I don’t do things I don’t want to do, I only do things I want to do. I will give up on impossible things!”

“……”

“Ah, you just spaced out right?”

“……Not really.”

“No, you were spacing out. I can tell you are hiding it. Rather, what will you do if you are in my situation? Wanting to watch the battle for a bit and suddenly encounter an enemy. And it’s someone who has the power to easily infiltrate deep into enemy territory, probably an elite from 「Strega」 judging from the magic system, physical traits, and contents of speech, able to grasp the loophole of **Great Contract Magic** meaning she’s used to this—”

Reiji poured out his deductions one by one.

She showed no reaction on her face.

Just that, her pupils that were staring at him moved a tiny bit,and the number of times she blinked increased.

Those changes that would normally be unnoticed were sufficient for Reiji to change his deductions to convictions.

“—It’s common sense that competitions of strength against such an opponent is an impossible game.”

“……”

She still did not reply any words after continuing that far.

“However.”

“……However?”

The moment Reiji continued like that, a voice replied.

—Got you.

Reiji’s mouth, hidden by his muffler, curved into a smirk, and he spoke while putting up an act.

“I absolutely won’t lose apart from competitions of strength though.”

He shrugged and opened up his hands.

He did not hide his confidence and looked down at the girl as if it was regrettable.

At that obvious provocation, the girl dropped her gaze for a tiny instant and spoke.

“Anyone can do that if it’s just saying.”

“That’s true. That’s all I can do right now.”

“……”

They stared at each other for a few seconds.

Before long, she pulled back her weapon from his throat without any sign, and took one step back.

“……With this, you can do other things.”

So if he could win against her, then prove it.

As the girl hinted at that, Reiji smiled satisfyingly.

“Aah — In that case, let’s have a simple 「**Showdown**」 without any danger.”

“……「**Showdown**」?”

“You can decide the method. Anything is fine, you know? Be it Coin Toss, High and Low.”

As if it was natural to be carrying those things around, Reiji took out a coin and a deck of card from his pocket and continued.

“Ah, magic is not allowed. It’s possible that those guys over there might notice if it’s too flashy. Something peaceful, and able to determine the winner as soon as possible would be good.”

Hearing Reiji’s words, she looked at the surrounding, then looked straight back at him.

“……Then, cards.”

“Okay, High and Low it is. Simple, easy, with no room for cheating is just nice.”

Opening the card set on his right hand skillfully, he spoke as if he just noticed.

“Oh wait, this card is from my world, so it may be difficult for you. You can’t read the numbers, right?”

“If it’s only that much, I know. Because I have seen many **Heroes** so far.”

“……Hee, you have lived unexpectedly long?”

“That’s not true. I have only lived around 100 years.”

“That’s already considered quite long……”

Though she looked to be younger than Reiji in appearance.

She shook her head at Reiji’s reaction.

“A life just living to accumulate experience, has no meaning.”

A bland tone as usual.

Reading the minute emotion mixed in those words, Reiji laughed even louder in his heart, and spoke as if to change topics.

“Now then, I said that I absolutely won’t lose apart from competitions of strength. Proving that I absolutely won’t lose is actually very difficult. Even if I continue to win, I absolutely cannot eliminate the possibility of losing next time.”

Continuously winning and absolutely not losing did not have the same meaning.

As long as the thing called the next game existed, the possibility of losing would always exist.

“Therefore, I am thinking of proving it to you in a way you are convinced.”

“Convinced?”

“When you think that I absolutely won’t lose — when you absolutely won’t win against me, that will be the moment when it will be over. If I lose, you can do anything to me, including my life. In exchange, I want you to work for me if I win.”

“……”

The girl’s expression did not change, but her robe wriggled as if making a warning.

“Aah, it’s not something difficult. Simply speaking, it’s to provide information. Look, I believe you know that I have just come to this world.

The information I can obtain here is limited, you probably know quite a lot about other countries, right? Since you have that kind of thing.”

When Reiji pointed at the robe, the robe moved behind the back of the girl as if hiding.

It was a bit interesting that it seemed to be substituting for the girl with faint emotions.

Then the girl stared at him…

“……The rules?”

Along with those words, a faintly glowing small magic formation enveloped the two.

In other words, it was her accepting Reiji’s 「**Showdown**」.

Reiji flipped the stack of card in his hand, making it that the patterns and numbers were only shown to the girl.

“As you can see, it’s a normal card. Of course, there’s no marking on the back of the deck. You will pick one out of the fifty-two cards, then I will pick one, the one with the higher number wins. Simple right?”

“……If the numbers are the same?”

“Then it will be a draw. However, in High and Low, Ace will specially become the highest. Starting from 2, 3, 4……King, Ace. By the way, you picking directly and not me dealing the card is for the sake of fairness. Picking the card you like won’t have room for cheating right?”

The robe reacted to the phrase cheating.

It came out in front of the girl again, feeling like paying attention to him.

She herself did not answer with a Yes or No to Reiji's words, just silently picked one card from the deck that was shuffled and faced down.

After confirming the number on her own card, she immediately returned her gaze to Reiji, and stretched out her hand.

"……I will…deal the card. To prevent you from cheating."

"Ou, I will leave it to you."

He handed over the card naturally, and the girl presented the cards to Reiji by mimicking him.

—If he wanted to cheat, it would be this instant.

Seeing that the girl gave an order to her robe, then focused herself, Reiji showed a troubled look as if he didn't notice…

"Hmm, maybe this."

And quickly picked out one card from the girl's hands.

Cheating……he did not do it?

Then, how would he?

While she was pondering, Reiji spoke while his hand maintained the same posture as he picked out the card.

“Now then, let’s open by the count of three. One, two — three.”

The girl opened 『♥Q』

Reiji opened 『♠A』

“Oh, I must say I am quite lucky. Ah, that’s wrong, I should say ‘See, I never lost?’ right?”

Reiji smirked and immediately continued.

“Then, let’s do another round.”

The 「**Showdown**」 would continue until the girl believed that she 『Absolutely cannot win against Reiji』.

Pulling out ♠A on the first round could be called lucky, but it would obviously not make her think that she 『Absolutely cannot win』.

If he did not continue to win for many rounds at least — As the girl thought so, the result of the second round.

The girl 『♣7』

Reiji 『♠A』

“……Fu, this is the so-called power of **Hero** huh.”

Third round.

The girl 『♣7』

Reiji 『♠A』

“I’m incredible.”

Fourth rounnd.

The girl 『♦K』

Reiji 『♠A』

“This is fun.”

Fifth round. The girl 『♠10』 Reiji 『♠A』. Sixth round. The girl 『♥5』 Reiji 『♠A』. Seventh round. The girl 『♣8』 Reiji 『♠A』. Reiji 『♠A』, Reiji 『♠A』—

—A game that was simple, easy, with no room for cheating?

He sure dared to say such words.

Exactly twenty rounds.

Seeing Reiji opened 『♠A』 again, the girl thought.

Reiji was clearly cheating.

And he did not intend to hide it.

He no longer put up his shabby act, and spoke while looking at the girl who did not change her expression on the surface.

“This is my twentieth consecutive win. Still want to continue?”

The robe fluttered sharply.

Seeing that it substituted the expressionless girl to show hostility, Reiji made an exaggerated show of fear.

“Ooh scary scary……So, do you understand?”

He did not say understand what.

There could only be one thing he was referring to in that situation.

The girl naturally knew that he was talking about cheating.

She had carefully observed his actions.

A flick of his hand, a shift of his leg, she did not miss any instance of movement.

She even forcefully stopped his movement at times and did a body check.

However, even though she did that much — he did not reveal any flaw.

If she did not have evidence, she could not prove that he was cheating. She could not beat him.

……Could not beat him?

Suddenly, the robe waved vigorously as if it was bursting apart.

Unlike before, he was not surprised by any of that and continued to look at the girl with a thin smile.

—Absolutely won’t lose apart from competitions of strength.

However, proving it was very difficult.

Just like what he said himself, no matter how much he continued to win, he could not prove that he absolutely wouldn't lose.

Hence, he said that the proof would be when the girl thought that she 『Cannot win』.

At that time, she thought that it was sensible. She was convinced that it was so.

She did not notice that she was caught in a trap the moment she thought so.

Why?

Why did he emphasize about a game without room for cheating?

At that moment, the girl's consciousness certainly imprinted the thought of watching out for cheating.

With that, when the showdown began, she fell into a situation that could only happen if he was cheating, but she could not tell the method.

If it had come that far, any logical person could only think so.

{The problem is not whether he cheated. The problem is his cheating cannot be seen through— }

Then, as long as she could not see through his cheating — she absolutely could not win.

"……Since when?"

When she noticed.

The girl muttered so subconsciously.

“Since when — did you think of this?”

This strategy.

The showdown that was determined only by when the girl would be convinced.

He immediately answered that question.

“Since when I noticed that you have expectation for me.”

“Expectation—?”

“When your hiding place was exposed, you pretended to want to eliminate me, while never actually carrying it out. You would answer, show reaction, listen when conversing with me. Why did you do that?”

“That’s……”

“Your premise is wrong. You must eliminate the enemy race’s **Hero**, or collect information if you cannot do so, who decided that? You didn’t really come to harm other **Heroes**. You also didn’t come to collect information. It’s just your personal interest. Such as what kind of person this **Hero** is.”

As if he knew everything from the start.

“That’s why you were disappointed when I said that I won’t resist. You showed expectations when I said that I absolutely won’t lose if it’s something apart from violence. —Expectation. What kind of expectation?”

“……To be able to do the impossible — such expectation.”

The girl muttered subconsciously, he showed a smile.

“Isn’t it obvious to answer an expectation?”

He shrugged his shoulder in jest.

“_____”

The girl became aware of her thoughts that she did not notice herself.

From the start.

From the start, he was prepared to lose.

Like an audience praising the performance of a magician despite knowing it was a trick.

The moment her thought of losing was seen through, it was already decided.

Yes, that’s why this showdown was—

“Now then……isn’t it about time you are convinced?”

From the beginning, it was about whether the girl would be convinced.

The girl already knew the answer.

The rampaging robe quietened down as if it was a lie.

The girl closed her eyes once, and quietly spoke.

“……It’s…my loss.”

—Alright, information collection method get.

Thinking so in his heart, Reiji neatly kept the two types of deck.

—Human anatomy could not move as well as how humans thought it would.

Of course, it was not limited to hands and feet, sight and hearing, basically the five senses were also included.

For example, the eyeball activity called saccade, which sent the sight signals to the brain.

During saccade, there would definitely be milliseconds of lag happening.

Not seeing when one intended to see, not hearing when one intended to hear, the reason was such involuntary physical phenomenon.

If he accurately grasped that phenomenon, and made use of it, even if he had two types of deck, and kept switching them right before her eyes, she would not notice.

The girl picked from the normal deck, while Reiji picked from the cheating deck with only ♠A after swapping. Putting it bluntly, Reiji only did that.

No matter how much a human concentrated, no, rather, the more one concentrated, the harder one could notice the involuntary physical movement.

Magicians and con artists understood such method, and used it. What was necessary were the proficiency of the technique, and the courage to use it blatantly.

In an another world where such technique systemizations were unavailable, it was surprisingly easy to use.

Laughing on the surface, Reiji shook his head once and faced the girl straight.

“Now then, without further ado, the information of 「Strega」—”

“……Incredible.”

“Hmm?”

“Incredible……it was incredible……even amongst all the **Heroes** I have seen so far, you are — a wonderful person unrelated to being a **Hero**.”

“Ain’t that right? Well, I’m embarrassed, hahahaha.”

“Really, really. From my heart, from the bottom of my heart — I think that you are a wonderful person.”

“……Ah, un……is it?”

Even Reiji flinched at such a big praise that would make one think if it was too much.

Rather.

She was expressionless until now, no, she was still expressionless, but he felt that she was getting closer.

“Uh, you’re too close — Uoh!?”

Reiji’s feet were pulled by the extended robe when he was about to move away, and he fell back along with the girl who had already gotten so close that their foreheads were about to touch.

“It……hurts…not.”

Although he fell down quite hard, he landed softly, the robe probably received the fall.

……He might just fall in love with that robe.

Such a joke was instantly blown away when he noticed that the girl was looking down at him in a riding position.

Probably because the robe was used as a buffer at Reiji’s back, the girl who completely took off her robe was — in her underwears no matter how he looked at it.

What barely covered her chests and bottom were bras and shorts the same black color as the robe.

The contrast between her refreshing white skin and black underwear was dazzling.

“Wh—”

Reiji tried to get up in reflex, but his shoulders were pressed down by the robe that seemed to be used like a mattress or futon.

Reiji just noticed that he was in a posture that sealed all his movements.

—The condition for victory should have been set to listen to everything he said……!

Of course, whether she would accept that condition or not was another story.

Instead, he felt that it was normally impossible!

While Reiji panicked, the girl made another crazy move.

With the assistance of the robe, she raised Reiji's right hand forcefully, and together with her own hand — pressed it on her own chest.

"Here……becoming so hot……first time since I was born."

……Even though it was expressionless.

Even though it was supposed to be expressionless, he could read something like embarrassment from that face.

Reiji's right hand transmitted the small but definitely elastic, squishy and soft feeling.

"……C……Calm down?"

He desperately ignored it, and spoke.

"Y-You will understand if we talk. No, you may not understand. This is—"

“This is — what is known as love?”

Wrong. Definitely wrong. Even though he wanted to deny it, Reiji felt that she would definitely not be convinced if he said that right now, so he just shook his head.

It was an unexpected development.

Like trying to deny an impossible reality.

However, she did not mind about Reiji’s opinion at all.

Still expressionless.

However, her red pupils wavered a little.

She sighed seductively.

She slowly — brought her face closer.

“Wa — H-hold on……wait, d-don’t be impulsiveeeee — mugu.”

She blocked Reiji’s screaming mouth.

She…kissed him.

For a long long time.

Long to the point for the struggling Reiji to give up, before she separated their lips, and spoke while looking down at Reiji.

“—Speaking of which. I have certainly lost to you.”

“……Ah?”

“However, as the method was through cheating, strictly speaking, it is not included in the condition of 「**Showdown**」.”

Reiji threw a sideway glance at her as if asking what she was saying this late, the girl continued.

“If there is no proof of cheating, it cannot be called cheating. Such rationale is valid, but confessing about cheating under normal condition is sufficient proof. And you have confessed that you cheated.”

Certainly, Reiji said that he admitted to cheating. He thought that it would be fine if she could not see through it.

“In other words, you have won the 「**Showdown**」, but lost the game.”

Well, considering the game of High and Low, it could not be helped if she said that he lost by breaking the rule.

“……So what about it?”

At the same time Reiji said so, a faint magic formation was drawn before his eyes.

“Ha!?”

Reiji quickly looked up at the sky, and confirmed the usual slowly rotating Cube.

If a magic formation was drawn, it meant that — under the **Great Contract Magic**, mutual understanding and agreement was proven.

“When you heard my words just now, you also understood. My victory condition is also fulfilled.”

He had no such intention. He had no such intention, but — he was not confident about agreeing subconsciously.

Anyway, the contract established meant that the victory condition she gave — the wish 『Do anything she wants to Reiji』 was realized.

“D-Don’t fool around, it should be me who won the showdown!”

Ignoring Reiji who was raising his voice, the girl got close to him again and whispered in his ears.

“**「I, Clanleu Shimishika, under the Great Contract Magic, pledge to establish the master-servant contract—」**”

“What—?”

Hero should not be able to establish a master-servant contract with anyone else apart from the summoner—

However.

“「**Clanleu Shimishika as the servant, Houbami Reiji as the master, I pledge to fundamentally abide by the master’s orders as the servant**」”

The contract where Reiji became the master, and Clanleu became the servant.

With that, it was unrelated to the master-servant contract of **Hero Summon** aimed to prevent assisting another race.

Of course, Reiji had no reason to refuse a servant who would listen to his words within her capability.

With that, in accordance to mutual understanding and agreement, he established a master-servant contract with her.

Leu stood up at the same time the light of magic formation dissipated…

“That’s how it is.”

Pressed down on her silver hair that shone under the sunlight, and looked at Reiji, who was spaced out at the sudden development.

“Please take care of me from now on, Master.”

She smiled.

—On the day he encountered Leu.

Reiji visited that place for the sake of collecting information.

If he could not make use of the cyber network, he would make use of human network.

For that sake, he used himself as bait to lure out spies from the other countries—

Based on the result, being able to attract the 「Strega」, a race that cut off all contacts with other races since the ancient [Seventh] should have been a fortune.

“What…happened?”

Reiji sat on the bed, and sighed as Leu mysteriously asked him from a close distance.

“How did it become like this……”

A girl from 「Strega」 that was wrapped in mystery from other races, and a genuine princess known as the [Four Princesses of Elegant Bloodline] (Noble Blood), invaded Tistel using a **Magical Artifact** 『Adjacent Darkness』 that looked just like a black robe.

The reason was to see what kind of person the newly summoned **Hero** Reiji was, such an extremely personal reason, unrelated to the intentions of 「Strega」, let alone espionage.

“In the first place, 「Strega」 has no such thing as racial awareness. Although we formed a country as we came from the same world, we uphold

individualism more.”

“You better not think that such a reason would work on other races (elsewhere)……?”

From the other races’ perspectives, regardless of whether they were hostile internally or unrelated to one another, they were all 「Strega」. Once a problem occurred, they would obviously go after Dillide (「Strega」 Kingdom).

“……? I have properly listened to Master’s words.”

Certainly, Leu had been listening to Reiji’s words.

For example, as long as the master-servant contract continued, she would not be able to use any magic. Reiji sealed her using the contract.

Reiji would absolutely not accept such a forceful demand that was the same as binding hands and feet together.

However, she instantly accepted it despite so—

“So. Uh…this obedient lady…what have you…been doing since…just now?”

Reiji spoke with a tone that was on the brink of anger because Leu had been enthusiastically undressing him.

Reiji resisted with all his strength, but with the assistance of her 『Adjacent Darkness』, she had already reached half her goal.

“Because Master seems to be tired. I thought of relieving Master.”

“Who requested you to……?”

Reiji’s resistance was futile as his blazer and hoodie were stripped off, and as Leu stared at her trophies, she thought of something — she buried her face into them.

“Stop that you idiot!!”

Reiji retorted straightforwardly and tried to snatch them back, but was held down by 『Adjacent Darkness』.

“Hey…wai…oi let go! Let go! It’s your Master’s order!?”

Reiji shouted without thinking, Leu spoke with a muffled voice as her face was buried in his blazer and hoodie.

“I cannot listen to that.”

“You cannot not listen to that!? An order isn’t something like that!”

“Fundamentally is one of the condition attached.”

—I pledge to fundamentally abide by the master’s orders as the servant—

……She certainly said that. She said that, but…

“Don’t fool around with me!! At least use that when I forbid you to use magic oi!”

“That’s…not really a problem. I’m not troubled. Rather — if I refused, Master will be troubled.”

“That’s……Kuh.”

That’s certainly the fact.

In Reiji’s plan, Leu’s powerful magic was clearly an obstruction.

“That’s why, please overlook this much at least. —No good?”

If she said it like that, Reiji could only keep quiet and close one eye on her outrageous behavior.

It was an exchange condition effective only on Reiji.

—That’s right, it was the biggest miscalculation for Reiji. Although he obtained the method to collect information, Clanleu Shimishika (Information collection method itself) was much more intelligence than he had thought.

Even in the showdown one month ago, if she did not seriously want to lose to Reiji, he would probably be having a hard time.

……However.

“How would I know!! I am a free man (NEET)! I don’t do things I don’t want to, I don’t let others do things I don’t want to let others do!!”

Reiji pushed forward without caring for his body, 『Adjacent Darkness』 was troubled on how to act and returned to its master — Leu pushed him down in a counter as if she read his behavior.

“Just as planned.”

“—Shut up, saying Master and all, you’re just doing whatever you want!”

“There’s no such thing. —Also.”

Leu paused her words for a moment, then blandly continued.

“Master should be glad that I am not hostile.”

Her expression had not a speck of change.

Looking at that doll-like face, Reiji narrowed his eyes.

“……I can only say just that is undeniably true.”

“Great. Then—”

“Not then, rather, stop rubbing my chest persistently!! Are you a slut!?”

“Please listen to me.”

“You really don’t listen to what others say huh……that’s fine. I also won’t listen.”

“I have lived for over a hundred years. I have not understood what this feeling was all this while.”

She ignored his words of refusing to listen and began her story.

Unfortunately, he could not dislike that my-pace personality.

“My race obtains wisdom from the body fluid of other intelligent races — through blood. I have also sucked blood from various species. However, no matter what, I cannot understand the thing known as feelings.”

“……That’s ‘cause feelings are not knowledge. Seeking your own innate emotional experience from others is meaningless.”

“Yes. No matter how much blood I sucked, no matter how much knowledge I gained, I could not experience any feeling welling up inside me. That’s the same even when I met **Heroes**. Therefore, I had half given up. I judged that I don’t have such a thing in the first place. However—”

She looked at him with a heated gaze.

“You — Master has developed my feelings.”

“Developed……Look here. In the first place, didn’t you possess feelings from the start?”

“…….Eh?”

“You want to know about feelings. Wanting to know what exactly a feeling is, seeking without any reason — That desire for knowledge, holding a strong feeling to know, love for knowledge (philosopher). What is a feeling if that isn’t it?”

“____”

Leu opened her eyes slightly wider.

“Do you understand? That is something you have within you from the start. In other words, you don’t have to treat your encounter with me as anything special. End of my proof!”

Alright get off. Quickly get off. Hurry up and get off. Reiji wanted to get up as soon as possible.

Leu remained without moving, and shook her head.

“Those words just now, I am even more certain. As expected — I love Master.”

“Haa? Why is that — your…hey…don’t lean your face on my chest! Rather, I can’t trust that thing called love the most!!”

“……Why?”

“——Is there a reason to tell you?”

A bone chilling voice.

Anyone had a topic they did not want to touch on.

She immediately noticed it.

Leu shut her mouth that wanted to say something.

“……In that case, it’s fine.”

Leu simply said that.

“I will — teach Master that.”

“Ha? Teach — oi, not the bottom!!”

She was in her underwear clad appearance from the start.

Disregarding her speech or behavior, she was a girl that had an outstanding appearance.

When such a delicate body pushed on him, entwined, touched, be touched —

As a healthy man, Reiji could not help but show some reaction.

“In the first place, is that really love you have!? Is it not just lust!?”

“……? Is there a difference between love and lust?”

“Ah, you totally don’t understand. Even I can be sure of just that.”

“Then that’s that. You can just learn together with me.”

“No matter what, you fully intend to assault me huh!! —That’s enough, Master’s order! Stop!!”

“—I suddenly cannot understand Master’s words. Must be a malfunction in the **Idea Language**. I can’t hear you.”

“I can totally understand your words though!?”

“Only Master’s is no good.”

“Aren’t you hearing it properly……!”

“But.”

And she suddenly stopped her hand.

“Really, for the first time since I was born — I felt lust.”

Without any expression, she continued without stop.

“I think of doing erotic things with Master……with Reiji. I feel that I want to have a child with you. Therefore—”

“……I get it. It can’t be helped if that’s the case — As if that’s possible!! You idiot!!”

“Then I will throw away rationality. It’s alright. I have the knowledge itself……I will work hard to make you feel good.”

“Seriously, please go back already……!”

The servant (Leu) that did not listen to her Master (Reiji) at all, made Reiji think about his own Master (Tifalycia), whom he never listened to at all as well.

He felt that he could understand how she felt. Though nothing would change even if he understood that.

“……Well, there’s no such thing as not understanding that girl in the first place.”

“That girl? —The girl that looks like a servant despite being the summoner of the **Hero**?”

“The way you say it sounds somewhat indecent……”

Reiji showed a nonchalant expression, and his mouth immediately curved upwards.

“That girl is definitely my Master. No, accurately speaking, a person who will become my Master.”

“……? No matter how I look at it, Master is the Master.”

“You’re wrong. She’s not obeying me obediently, I also don’t intend to make her obedient. Rather, I will be troubled if that’s not the case.”

“What do you…mean?”

As Leu showed her desire for knowledge and seriously asked, Reiji quickly slipped out and got up.

“That is—”

Then the content spoken by the **Hero** Reiji was more than surprising to the 「Strega」 princess Clanleu Shimishika—

Chapter 3:
NEET's Training

"Today will be the day — The day I win and take this collar off!"

Next morning.

Tifalycia pointed at her collar with her right hand while she knocked on the door and entered.

"Ah, un. Do your best."

Not to mention the collar, he did not even glance at Tifalycia and continued playing around with the smartphone on his hand while lying on the bed, causing her cheeks to twitch.

"Kuh……F-Fuun……you can remain as composed as you like. I'm seriously going to be different today."

"Hmm?"

Reiji finally raised his face…

“Ah, now that you say it……is the color of your underwear different from usual?”

And then he stared at her two bountiful bulges.

“Wh—Wh…Wha!”

Tifalycia turned bright red and hurriedly hid her chest with both her arms.

“You are panicking too much. The thing that you were hiding in your left hand can be seen.”

“—!”

Tifalycia quickly hid that something in her hand ,which looked like some book, behind her back again.

“Th-That just now…isn’t really…today’s showdown—”

“I never asked you what that is for, though?”

“……Uu.”

“Well, looks like I will have fun again this time. Now then, what should I make you do today?”

“—N-No matter what you say, I will absolutely…absolutely not lose!”

“It’s not to win huh.”

“……Eh?”

“Not losing and winning are two very different things.”

“～I won’t be deceived by your sophism again! I have thought of a sure-win method for today’s 「**Showdown**」 after all!!”

Tifalycia revealed the book in her left hand without hiding it anymore as she said that.

Reiji looked not at that book, but her tense expression, and smirked.

“Hee, I look forward to it.”

—Several minutes later.

“……Well, it turned out like this as expected.”

Reiji won in the 「**Showdown**」that Tifalycia had claimed to be a sure-win for her, and looked down at the girl trembling in shame from the feeling of defeat and the『Punishment Game』.

“I don’t even know how many times I have said this — You are good at completing flags, aren’t you?”

“Uuu……”

Tifalycia had no more energy to respond, and her head remained drooped down.

And an additional blow came at that time.

“Please excuse me. I have come to clean the room—……Eh? Mistress Tifalycia……?”

A servant entered the room along with a knock.

“Hau!?”

“You are probably thinking 『Of all times, it has to be at this timing!?』.”

“D-Don’t tell me—”

“Well, coincidences sure are scary.”

Reiji vacantly spoke, and Tifalycia slowly turned around towards the servant.

The mistress were on all fours and shaking her bountiful breasts.

A collar was on her neck, with a lock at the front and — in the middle of a 『Play』 no matter who saw it.

“……Umm……What…are you doing……?”

Those words dealt the final blow to Tifalycia.

The thin film of light from the magic formation forced her to carry out the contract.

Abiding the order from the **Great Contract Magic**, raising up one hand, Tifalycia spoke with a stiff smile.

“—In the midst of serving M……Master—Nya♡”

Time stopped.

Reiji endured his laughter on the bed.

Tifalycia’s face warped in shame to the point of dying while her hand was still raised.

The servant’s expression went blank, and she went out of the room without saying anything.

That might have been a show of kindness to her or some other reason.

No matter which, what she could say was…

“Y—YY…You! Are you a demon or a devil or an orc!?”

“No, I’m a NEET.”

Seeing that expression without a shred of shame, Tifalycia was overwhelmed, but then she gave up, and finally dropped down.

“……Uu……Why…why…letting a servant see that kind of shameful display……”

“Of course, that’s because it is necessary.”

“Why the poised face!?”

Tifalycia retorted at Reiji, who folded his arms and made a smart pose.

“What necessity…am I that detestable…is it sarcasm…is it your hobby!?”

“Well, that’s also a part of it.”

“Y…You……You are inhuman!”

“Oi oi that’s horrible. Even I thought of various things, you know?”

“Uu……it must be some terrible ways of punishment anyway……”

“Well, that’s true.”

“——My mother in heaven. Please listen to my wish. Let divine punishment befall this devilish demon……!”

Reiji sighed at Tifalycia, who had finally begun praying.

“No no, listen till the end. Look, recently, you have already gotten used to giving massages, right? A punishment game cannot be something you don’t hate.”

“What problem—”

“If you no longer think that there is something you hate waiting for you when you fail, you won’t learn.”

“……Eh?”

Learn?

In other words.

He…

—Is giving me punishment in consideration of me?

While Tifalycia was thinking of such a thing.

“More importantly, a beautiful elf girl twisting her face in shame is the best, isn’t it?”

Reiji showed another poised face.

“—……You are the worst **Hero**, the worst NEET.”

“Thank you.”

“I am not praising you!”

“Well, jokes aside. This time’s 「**Showdown**」, your idea was pretty good, you know?”

What Tifalycia challenged Reiji with in her sure-win 「**Showdown**」 was actually on the questions related to the knowledge of this world.

And it was only recorded in the book, even the people from this world could not easily answer them.

Of course, Reiji, who came to **Aquatera Realm** only one month ago, definitely could not answer — that was supposed to be the case.

"……However, you answered them fluently. Without a single mistake."

Tifalycia grumbled and looked at the encyclopedia in her hand resentfully.

Reiji lightly swung the smartphone in his hand at her.

"That's, well, all the answers are inside here."

"……Ha?"

"As expected, there shouldn't be anyone who could get it wrong while looking at the same content as that book."

"Wh-Wha — Same content you say."

"Hmm? Aah it's photo, photo taken. Keying in is too much as expected."

"N-Not that! You actually went to copy this whole book!?"

"Oi oi, how long do you think it has been since I arrived at this world? It's one month, one month already. If I have that much time, it's obvious that I can make a copy of all literatures in the castle at least."

Those nonchalant words shut her up.

Tifalycia knew the photographing function of that smartphone. Reiji had been using it very often.

However, she had never seen him taking photographs of books even once.

And then, what shocked her more than not witnessing him doing that, was the fact that he had made a copy of the hundreds of books within the castle.

“Even though you don’t know if there will actually be a time to make use of it……”

“Didn’t I make use of it, like just now?”

“Th-That’s true, but—”

“I said it many times before. Information determines the outcome. —In the first place, do you think that the showdown this time was completely decided by yourself from the start to finish?”

Of course, she intended to do that.

She intended to.

If she thought back on why she thought of using the books to make questions at that timing — it was because of what Reiji said the day before.

—There is no need to choose your method for the sake of winning. No matter how despicable it is, it will be justified for the sake of victory. As long as it is not forbidden, you can’t be blamed even if you use tools.

Tools. Despicable method.

If she used books and asked questions about this world’s knowledge, he would not be able to answer, would he?

That flash of inspiration—

“Everything……was for the sake of me challenging you to…this showdown today……?”

“Who knows?”

Reiji smiled frivolously and shrugged his shoulders.

“Well, that is that. The method I used to win this time is clearly cheating, but are you fine not blaming me for it?”

If it was the Tifalycia in the past, before acknowledging the fact that she lost,she would complain about how despicable Reiji’s method was.

However.

“……Losing is losing.”

As if trying to endure something.

Tifalycia gripped her hand and looked down at the floor, Reiji narrowed his eyes.

It seemed that she had noticed after continuing like that every day.

Those words complaining about despicableness were in turn mocking herself for lacking in consideration.

……The situation was progressing more favorably than he thought.

After that would be — the moment Reiji was thinking that.

“However.”

She raised her face and looked straight at Reiji…

“Someday for sure, I will escape from your palm and do my victory declaration proudly.”

That.

That expression displayed the strength of her will more than anything—

Reiji purposefully smiled sadistically, and said those words he had prepared.

“Those are some great words.”

Still nonchalant.

He continued in his usual toying tone.

“Aah, a big goal without knowing your own strength is your forte. In replacement for the power you should possess originally, that’s the only thing you have now.”

“The…power I should possess originally……?”

“If you have what anyone in 「Elf」 should be able to use, wouldn’t there be a greater variety for 「**Showdown**」?”

“—Don’t tell me…”

“What is it? Do you have something you want to ask? [Absence] Princess.”

In an instant.

The atmosphere around Tifalycia changed.

It was neither anger nor sadness, not expressionless and not emptiness.

It was an expression as if rejecting everything in the surrounding, a strong isolation.

"……Why…you…that…"

"Let me ask you back, why do you think I don't know?"

The **Hero** checked the books in the castle, and selfishly went out of the castle despite the restriction by the surrounding.

The information he collected would obviously be enormous.

More than what Tifalycia could imagine.

"The previous Lord of Tistel, Clairlycia. Your mother was wise, to the point that even the current king (「Elf」 **Ruler**) was extremely reliant on her, but she broke just one decisively important taboo. —That is…"

Despite seeing Tifalycia's long ears twitch in shock, Reiji spoke.

"She had taken a man of 「Infirma」, the only race that cannot use magic in this world and served as slaves to other races, as her husband. Then the daughter born between them did not possess the power that she should have possessed, and was slandered by her mother's race. That daughter — in other words, you, is a mix-blood between an 「Elf」 and an「Infirma」."

Reiji, who was born in another world, might not know, but having a child with an 「Infirma」 seemed to be a universally serious crime that crossed the fence of races.

As a consultant to the king, carrying an important duty, Tifalycia's mother, Clairlycia, was spared from the death sentence, and was instead exiled to such a remote place like a first-class criminal.

And what was marvelous about Clairlycia was that despite such a situation, she possessed the political prowess to let this territory to continue surviving at the least.

She knew that Tistel had no production ability, so she used her personal route to successfully establish trade with the neighbouring Entara (「Beastia」 Union), feed the scarce number of servants, provide education not inferior to royalty to her only daughter, and left behind sufficient savings for living.

That's right, she had already left the world.

After her charismatic mother had passed away, Tifalycia inherited her role thereafter, and Tistel declined to the current state as one could see.

Of course, it would be impossible for the territory to survive by itself without the support from the home country.

It was somehow sustained by her mother's political prowess before, but it's decline was inevitable after her death.

The number of servants decreased compared to the time Clairlycia governed, and the contact with Entara also stopped.

“It’s a crucible of poverty no matter how you look at it. I would have also given up. However — you never looked down.”

Receiving the love from her mother, Tifalycia, with an honest and serious education, did not crumble before the 「Elf」 that ignored her, the 「Beastia」 that despised her, and only continued to look forward.

For the sake of carrying on her mother’s dying wish.

“In the first place, you have two objectives. One is to clear the dishonor of your mother. And the other is to liberate the 「Infirma」.”

Liberate the 「Infirma」.

That was the dying wish of Clairlycia, and also an absurd delusion that even the word taboo was not enough to describe in this world.

「Infirma」 had always been a slave race long before the **Great Contract Magic** was established. They were overwhelmingly disadvantaged due to having no magic, hence having no choice but to rely on other races to survive.

The only race that completely lost in this world.

To save them, and free them from other races—

That absurd delusion was inherited by her daughter, Tifalycia, who was an [Absence].

The important wish of her mother. And for the sake of her 「Infirma」 father whose whereabouts were unknown.

“Then you held yourself in desperately in this dying territory, and made preparations. The move that could become a reversal that was doable by Tifalycia Cleargreen with royal blood (Candidate to throne in name). The final method known as **Hero Summon**.”

Hero Summon was a very complicated ritual and required a person possessing a special stigma — a shrine maiden was necessary.

Putting aside the process of the ritual, the special stigma — 『Summoning Stigma』 could only be inherited by one person in the same generation for each race, and not as simple as by having royal blood (suitability).

“However, you have easily overcome that difficult condition. After all, it was none other than Clairlycia who was the shrine maiden of that generation, and she secretly let her sole daughter, that is you, inherit the 『Summoning Stigma』.”

“—! How……”

“Make it a habit to think before asking……The reason 「Elf」 does not have a **Hero** for a long time, the reason why Clairlycia was only exiled to the border despite committing the absolute taboo, and the situation of the **Ruler’s** niece, and not someone from the legitimate royal family, summoning the **Hero**. If you investigate the story behind these, the truth will reveal itself.”

“……You are the only person who can do that.”

Tifalycia shrugged her shoulders and complained without thinking, while Reiji purposely talked in a light tone.

“Anyway, you have managed to summon a **Hero** just as your mother planned without trouble.”

If she summoned a **Hero**, 「Elf」 could not ignore the summoner (Tifalycia).

Soon, 「Elf」 would probably be calling Tifalycia and Reiji back to Granlem (home country).

No matter how despised Tifalycia was to them, she was a royalty of 「Elf」. If she could contribute achievements afterwards, there would always be a way to climb up—

“—You probably thought of something like that, but reality is not so nice. The **Hero** you summoned is an elite NEET, who reversed the master-servant relationship and is now living a carefree NEET life. Of course, the home country that heard this rumor would not call us, how pitiful, Tifalycia-chan’s plan has crumbled. Congratulations.”

“Isn’t that mostly your fault!?”

Reiji shamelessly spoke of the process, which provoked Tifalycia to retort.

“I wonder about that.”

Reiji narrowed his eyes sharply.

“Let’s say even if I intend to seriously do this **Hero** thing, do you think the 「Elf」 will acknowledge your achievements?”

“That’s……because I am [Absence], is it?”

“Not really. This me, NEET **Hero** Reiji has shockingly zero **Destiny**, and cannot use the **Realtà** that any **Hero** can use!”

“……Why are you so proud?”

“Well, look, ain’t I the Only One?”

“Unable to use **Realtà** makes you the same as the normal race though……”

Rather, if considering that races apart from 「Infirma」 could use magic, it was below normal.

“—Fu, since when did you think that NEET is above normal?”

“Please do not make an appeal on how useless you are……!”

“By the way, aren’t you the one who summoned this useless **Hero**?”

“Uu.”

“Also, isn’t it impossible if the summoned **Hero** has no common trait as the summoner (shrine maiden) herself?”

“Uuuu……”

The disappointment and resignation towards Reiji was reflected back on herself, Tifalycia wobbled as she remained seated.

“As expected, my own uselessness……”

“Fuhahahaha, how is it? The taste of the ultimate shifting the responsibility that transfers all the dissatisfaction of others towards self right back at them!”

“The worst……This person is the worst……”

“Well, jokes aside. Basically, after sorting out the information I had gathered in this one month, you are in a despairing situation, that’s what I wanted to say.”

Reiji pointed his finger at her, Tifalycia had an illusion that his finger was a sharp blade.

The matters Reiji investigated, considered, and pointed out, were all right to the core.

Not only the things Tifalycia considered herself, even the things she subconsciously did not want to face, came out from the mouth of that **Hero**, and made the judgement that it was a despairing situation, and she could not rebuke.

Just as he said, even the words pushed to the edge of the cliff were not enough to describe the position Tifalycia was in.

Irregardless of herself being [Inferior Blood] (Taboo existence), she had the absurd delusion of liberating the 「Infirma」.

In addition, the **Hero** that was her last hope had zero **Destiny** and no motivation.

If she did not despair in such a situation, she could only be called abnormal.

Unreasonable. Reckless. Impossible. No words could describe it.

————However.

“Even so……Even so, I am—”

The moment she raised her face, stood up, and was about to continue.

Suddenly, she saw a huge magic formation drawn in the sky beyond the ceiling of the room.

“Eh……!?”

Before the shocked Tifalycia, through the direction of the ceiling, in the middle of the magic formation in the sky, words displayed itself one after another.

It was also reflected in Reiji’s eyes.

“**Heroic War** — 「Beastia」 Napoleon Bonaparte VS 「Elf」 Houbami Reiji!?”

The astonishing content came out from Tifalycia’s voice.

Heroic War

「Beastia」 Napoleon Bonaparte

VS

「Elf」 Houbami Reiji

Field: Tistel

Victory Condition: Subjugation of the enemy **Hero**

Victory Reward: Tistel’s governance

The **Heroic War** suddenly happened.

Dashing out of the room, running through the corridor, looking at the sky directly, Tifalycia did not see wrong, she confirmed that the summary of the **Heroic War** was definitely written there.

“Field is……Tistel……Victory…reward is — Tistel’s governance……”

As she read the words in the magic formation, her voice became smaller.

What was there was pure confusion.

There were many questions.

Why did **Heroic War** suddenly happen?

Why was the opponent 「Beastia」?

Why was the victory reward not only 「Beastia」, but also 「Elf」, to obtain Tistel—

“Why……did…this……”

As Tifalycia muttered so, she saw Reiji and immediately shut up as if she noticed something.

Creasing her brows, that was her habit when thinking deeply.

—Make it a habit to think before asking.

She seemed to have immediately put what Reiji said a while ago into practice.

Smiling only in his heart after seeing that tendency, Reiji spoke vaguely.

“What questions do you have? Try saying them.”

“……There are…too many questions……”

“Just say out your thoughts. Saying out your thoughts can also help sort it out.”

“Then……first is the question on the opponent. 「Beastia」 had been friendly since mother’s time. When I became the Lord, umm, there was a little distance, but there was no event that would cause them to be hostile. So I don’t understand why they would want Tistel now.”

“They had always wanted it but was obstructed by the previous Lord. Now they can snatch it without worrying, such a chance has come around, is one possible explanation.”

“……That’s……certainly, it may sound reasonable from 「Beastia」 side, but it doesn’t sound reasonable from 「Elf」 side. If the contract between **Rulers** was not established, **Heroic War** cannot take place, if here is the main battlefield, they should at least contact us beforehand.”

“However, the fact is that without doing so, the **Heroic War** happened. Then at least the **Rulers** have definitely established the contract.”

“I—If that’s the case, the victory reward is strange! Taking a hundred steps back, 「Beastia」 wanting Tistel’s governance can be explained, but

「Elf」 is betting on the governance they already have, you know? In the first place, the current **Hero** of 「Elf」 is you. Winning against 「Beastia」 in a war is not—”

Saying until that point, Tifalycia stopped as if she thought of something.

She finally opened her eyes wide.

Reiji spoke as if to continue guiding her further.

“For example. The 「Elf」 failed in a non-battle diplomacy and had to swallow a **Heroic War** from 「Beastia」 in a way that they couldn’t refuse. With only a defective **Hero**, what can the 「Elf」 do to minimize their losses when they absolutely cannot win?”

Saying it in a way as if it was someone else’s business.

“War is at best a method of negotiation. A country’s **Ruler** calmly calculated the profits and the losses, and had his eyes on one territory. In there were the useless **Hero** and a royalty hinderance. Not only was it coincidentally connected to the territory of 「Beastia」, there was also no significant loss to the 「Elf」. Rather, it would be a plus to be able to get rid of a hinderance.”

“That—kind of—”

Emotionally.

As Tifalycia was shaking her head, about to deny it, Reiji interrupted her and nonchalantly spoke.

“You have been sold, basically.”

As if those words carried weight, Tifalycia’s shoulders slumped.

Despite seeing her like that, Reiji did not stop.

“And also, did you notice? You can’t see any of the servants since a while ago.”

The servants who were always busy moving around with cleaning, cooking and washing.

Leaving aside whether they could be seen even within the room, they would have been visible once she went outside even if she didn’t want to.

However, currently.

Despite her looking over the courtyard, peeking into the kitchen, glancing out of the castle from the observatory — she could not see a single one of them.

Everything went back to silence.

It was as if there were only Tifalycia and Reiji in the entire castle.

Before Tifalycia could voice out her suspicion, Reiji answered her with his deduction.

“The servants here are 「Infirma」, right? And the home country has thousands of times more 「Infirma」 than here. What if those servants from the home country relayed this information to them beforehand? Normally, they cannot betray the master according to the contract, but the servants here established master-servant contract with your mother, that also seems to be a point.”

Tifalycia as the daughter did not have enforcement power of the **Great Contract Magic** in the contract.

Abandoning a master with no future.

Migrating to another land was also the freedom of the servant.

“……”

What the trembling Tifalycia could hear with her ears was plenty of war cries and marching sound.

The flames of **Heroic War** had already been lit.

The 「Beastia」 did not face any resistance when entering the territory of Tistel, which was set to be the battlefield, and they surrounded the castle that would be the headquarter.

They had pursued all the way right before Reiji and Tifalycia.

“__”

Tifalycia’s knees gave away on the spot as if she lost all her strength.

There was already nothing supporting her.

Sold away by her home country.

Abandoned by her servants.

Trampled by her enemy in reality.

To the girl that sunk her hands onto the ground, hung her head down, lowered her face before absolute despair.

Next to her ear.

Reiji whispered as such.

“Have you already given up?”

Merciless words of a devil.

It was not even an attempt to give a further blow, just coldly informing her that she had no room for any choice.

It was over.

Be it her mother’s dream, or father’s hope.

It all collapsed there.

————However.

“I won’t…give up.”

Weakly.

It might break at any moment.

The voice that was squeezed out.

Straightforwardly — displayed her thoughts.

“Even if…mother’s……Tistel is robbed away here, losing my place to live, losing my position, with no one following me, losing away everything — I…still have…my life.”

As long as she had her life, she would not abandon her target.

Because, that was…

That wish was…the life of Tifalycia itself.

Therefore, even if she lost any and everything apart from that.

“I am — going to continue looking forward.”

Those sincere words.

Determination not to cower back.

A recklessness with nothing other than belief.

“—Kukukuku.”

Reiji laughed.

Laughed and laughed.

Laughed hideously — and spoke.

“Those words are what I want to hear.”

—Always.

Reiji had always been watching Tifalycia Cleargreen.

He had continued to test the extent of her seriousness.

Anybody could have delusions.

Anybody could make declarations.

However, the determination and will to carry those out was — not possible for everyone to have.

“Normal people may not know, but — a free man (NEET) requires quite the determination and will, you know?”

“……Ha?”

What was he saying all of a sudden?

As Tifalycia said so, he lightly shrugged his shoulders.

“Basically, I’m saying that I will lend you, who is ignorant, reckless, and without a clear direction, my strength. Master.”

Under the clear blue sky.

Reiji looked down at the crowd of enemies below the castle.

“As such, for the time being—”

With a notorious smile, he spoke.

“We surrender.”

In regards to **Heroic War**.

The victory condition of subjugating the **Hero**, would be achieved by snatching the opponent's seal (Touching the seal). That was derived from snatching the opponent race's flag in the old **Pledged War**, a proof of making the opponent yield.

As such, the involved party, the **Hero**, had sufficient effectiveness when making a declaration equivalent to presenting his seal.

—In other words, basically.

Victor: 「Beastia」 Napoleon Bonaparte

Loser: 「Elf」 Houbami Reiji

Those words appeared in the magic formation in the sky.

"Oh, the result will appear in an instant. Wow incredible."

"Y…Y—YYYou! What have you done!?"

Reiji just nonchalantly looked up at the sky and spoke towards Tifalycia, who stood up, approached him, just left with grabbing his collar.

"Eh? What?"

"Not what!! Just now the **Heroic War** is over, you know? It has confirmed our defeat, you know!?"

"Ah…un, you can tell that by looking up."

"I do not mean that……!"

“Hmm, then let me ask you back. What do you think we can do to win in this situation?”

Reiji pointed his finger at the 「Beastia」 crowd below the castle, Tifalycia lost her vigor halfway.

“Th-That’s……”

“Don’t tell me, you aren’t thinking of leaving them all to me, are you?”

Her face dyed red as if her plan was seen through, Reiji raised only the corner of his lips.

“Oi oi that’s not like you. Relying on people isn’t your hobby. —Rather, did I say that I lost?”

“Eh……? Surrendering—”

“That’s only about the **Heroic War**. {losing away everything is fine} right? Then.”

Saying up to that point, Reiji changed the direction he faced.

“Losing the race (dependence) known as 「Elf」 is also fine, right?”

Inhaling with all his might.

He announced towards **The Cube** above his head and to the 「Beastia」 below the castle with a loud voice.

“Tifalycia Cleargreen is making a country that liberates the 「Infirma」 here right now — this is the founding of 「Liberator」 (Those without

dependence)!!”

Silence resounded.

The declaration was so shocking that everyone in that place could not help but space out.

“So, well — can you all please quickly get out?”

Reiji showed a gesture of shooing away some animals with a smiling face.

“——D—Don’t fool around!!”

“Are you treating us like idiots!?” “Who do you think you are speaking to!!” “Which side do you think has won!?” “Do your sleep talking in your sleep!!” “I’m going to drag you down!?”

Angry roars, jeers, etc, exploded all at once.

Those booing from the 「Beastia」 sounded like a melody to Reiji as he showed a delightful expression.

That attitude further stimulated their heightened anger, finally causing them to resort to violence.

They resumed their interrupted duty of sieging the castle that was what they came to do originally.

“Ah, I believe that you all should not do that, you know?”

They did not listen to Reiji’s advice, and striked at the closed gate—

In an instant.

A magic formation spread out, and those attackers were blown several meters away.

“‘‘Wha!?’’”

Under the **Great Contract Magic**, an enforced defense magic activated.

Confirming the effectiveness, Reiji carefreely glanced at those astonished people.

“That’s why I said so. Even though it’s not during **Heroic War**, if you act so violently without an order, **Great Contract Magic**-chan will get angry, you know?”

“Wh—What absurdity! Didn’t you just surrender in the **Heroic War** just now!!”

“Ah un. I did surrender. So the result is 「Elf」 lost and 「Beastia」 won. The bet is the governance of Tistel, hence this land already belongs to 「Beastia」. —So?”

“Ha……? ……N-No, that’s why, you guys from 「Elf」 should quickly __”

“Eh? Who is this 「Elf」?”

Reiji smirked as he looked at the 「Beastia」, who finally noticed the importance of the matter, and spoke.

“Hey hey, think carefully. This place may have become the land of 「Beastia」 in name. However, how is the 「Beastia」 going to chase away us, who are sitting here right now?”

As they had won in the fight that bet on Tistel, the governance of the land should be held by the 「Beastia」.

However, the castle built there was another matter.

It's one thing if they had agreed on the automatic hand over of the castle beforehand, the present matter was decided one-sidedly by the 「Elf」 **Ruler**, while Tifalycia had no knowledge of it.

Basically, Tistel Castle was still Tifalycia's possession.

As such, since the **Heroic War** was over, any intervention with harmful intent would not be allowed. Forcefully carrying it out would trigger the activation of the enforced defense magic from the **Great Contract Magic**.

In other words, there was no way of blaming Reiji and Tifalycia for illegal occupation in the current situation.

"Y—You idiot, if we complain to the 「Elf」 about this—"

"The idiot is you. Did you not hear the declaration I made just now?"

The country that would liberate the 「Infirma」 — The declaration on the founding of 「Liberator」.

That's right, Reiji and Tifalycia were no longer related to the 「Elf」.

Of course, that was only in name. So 「Beastia」 could still complain about the matter being different from what they agreed on. However, the 「Elf」 could also cleanly deny on the knowledge of that. They could put all the blame on the [Absence] (Tifalycia) to escape the blame.

Originally, such arguments after fights between the members of races with proper countries behind them would not occur.

That was because a proper **Ruler** (Backer) existed behind them, and exchanges between the races would still continue afterwards, it could be said that they had to keep their promises for their country's honor.

Hence no matter what feelings they had, they would shake hands after the battle, limiting the victory and defeat to that place only.

However, 「Infirma」 was different. Even if they broke their promise at the outcome, there was no representative for other races to demand for responsibility.

The reason it became a problem was because nobody had expected 「Infirma」 to have a **Heroic War** with any of the races.

In other words, because they were despised while living under the rule of other races, Reiji was able to use the loophole that was forgotten.

"You fools……There's no way we would acknowledge something like the country of 「Infirma」—"

"Aah, do you know what is founding a country? Did you think that it needs some sort of ritual or treaty? —Unfortunately, it is something that can happen if you dare to speak out. In fact, it has been acknowledged by that."

Reiji pointed at **The Cube** above his head with his thumb and smiled thinly.

"And it's not 「Infirma」 but 「Liberator」 country okay? So nice to meet you."

“—”

They could not rebut, but could only grit their teeth in frustration and give the order to retreat.

At the time the last of them could no longer be seen.

“—Alright, thanks for the wait. You can come out already.”

In accordance to Reiji’s words, the servants appeared from various places.

“Mistress Tifalycia……” “Mistress……you are safe……!”

“Ah……Wh-Why……didn’t you all escape……”

“No no……! It’s outrageous for us to escape!”

Along with one of the servants hugging Tifalycia as if she was extremely emotional, other servants also gathered around her.

“I have reminded them beforehand. Considering the one in a million chance that there is the possibility of battle, retreat back into the forest — saying like that sounds nice huh. Well, it’s an insurance for what if.”

As if not hearing Reiji’s casual remark, Tifalycia was immersed in the joy of reuniting with the servants.

Sighing at that mushy face that could cry at any time even now, Reiji paused a while and spoke.

“It’s still too early to be emotional. Look, did you not notice anything else?”

“E-Else……?”

Tifalycia raised her head and looked around, and immediately noticed.

“Mistress Tifalycia……It’s been a long time.”

It was a polite man just reaching his elderly age. And behind him, a neat row of elderly people.

“Eh……y-you people are……”

They were servants that lost their jobs or resigned themselves when the Lord was transferred from Clairlycia to Tifalycia.

“We heard that Young Mistress is going to inherit the will of Clairlycia-sama, so we wish to offer our insignificant strength.”

Her decision to inherit Clairlycia’s (Mother’s) will, brought about servants offering their strength.

That led Tifalycia to remember the shocking declaration Reiji gave earlier, and noticed that he wanted to cause this situation on purpose.

“Since when……was this…”

Tifalycia unconsciously voiced out her thought, and Reiji smiled like usual.

“Since the start.”

He said it so easily.

“Didn’t I say it before? The result of a showdown is decided before it started. What is necessary for that is information. In that one month of NEET life with master-servant reversal, majority of the time was spent on

collecting information, so I will be troubled if you are surprised at just this level.”

“—!? Even though we were always together, I totally didn’t notice—”

“That’s…well……because I didn’t take action directly myself most of the time.”

For an instance.

Reiji’s expression turned bitter, and he unconsciously gazed at his own shadow, at that moment.

Within that shadow, a girl appeared.

““Wha—!?””

In front of everyone, not only the servants and Tifalycia, even Reiji was surprised.

The girl with silver hair and wrapped in a black robe — Leu was floating in midair and she puffed out her tiny chest.

“……Most of that…is my job.”

Her exquisite doll-like face did not show any expression, but her robe was fluttering as if being proud.

“—No no, why did you show up!?”

Reiji retorted as usual, and when Leu was about to reply.

“「Strega」!?”

Tifalycia interrupted.

Silver hair and red eyes, a girl with a phantom-like trait outer appearance.

The trigger to the ancient [Sevens], hardly appearing on stage in the present, the 「Strega」 that was shrouded in mystery to most of the other races.

“Wh-Why is 「Strega」 and……”

Tifalycia retreated back, and the servants showed obvious expressions of fear.

“Ah, well, that’s what would happen……”

Reiji had gathered from books and from stories from servants that 「Strega」 was feared by the most as the mysterious unknown. It was also used to threaten the children when it was time to sleep.

Everyone was thinking about the question on how the 「Elf」 **Hero** was acquainted with such an existence.

Reiji scratched his head and sighed.

“It would be a long story, but simply speaking, well — I picked her up.”

“……Ha?”

“I picked her up. Over there.”

He pointed to the back of the castle as he spoke.

“Don’t joke around……! We are having a serious talk—”

“I was picked up.”

Leu interrupted Tifalycia this time…

“So…I am Reiji’s — Master’s slave.”

And hugged Reiji.

At that moment, the black robe fell off, her underwear-like appearance was shown at the same time.

“Seal of Contract……”

On her thigh, the **Six Flower in Full Bloom seal** was clearly shown.

“Don’t tell me the contract really……? Wh-What does this mean?”

“……Leu, seriously, you…”

“Because I am Master’s slave — I can also do this.”

“Idi—Mugu.”

Watching Leu kissing him right before her eyes.

“____”

Tifalycia was frozen.

“—……Argh! I told you to stop doing this kind of thing!”

However, that act caused the servants to raise a commotion in a different meaning.

“R-Really made that 「Strega」 serve him……” “I-Incredible!” “The 「Strega」 should be able to use powerful magic that other races couldn’t use.” “With this, winning in a frontal confrontation is—!”

“Ah, sorry to pour cold water on your excitement, that is not going to happen.”

“……Eh?”

The servants that had gotten excited all focused on Reiji.

Before them, Reiji spoke in a disappointed way.

“Look here, I said that we are making a new country that will not be discriminant against races, so what are we going to do by using the power of 「Strega」 to win? Even if suppose we did it, that would only become making a second 「Strega」 country. So if it comes to a fight, it will only be the 「Infirma」 as main force, with a way that doesn’t use magic.”

“H-However, if we can use, then using it—”

“And, I expected someone to say that, so I have established a contract with this fella — with Leu so that she cannot use magic beforehand……At least that’s what the master-servant contract is for.”

That last sentence was meant for Tifalycia.

“That’s how it is in name.”

Leu added that, and Reiji face palmed.

“……However, wouldn’t that make the 「Strega」 a hinderance instead?” “……Certainly.” “Not to mention she doesn’t have the same blood as Tifalycia-sama and us……”

“Alright, I knew that you will say that.”

Reiji clapped his hands and spoke while keeping them together.

“What did I say I would make? A 「Liberator」 country. Try to remember the words of your admired Clairlycia. Even though she wanted to liberate the 「Infirma」, she should have never said anything about making a 「Infirma」 country.”

“……That’s true.”

“That’s because Clairlycia understands. That there is no meaning in making something like that.”

“No…meaning……?”

“Making a country means that fights between countries will bound to happen. A fight will definitely have winner and loser. The loser will eventually walk on the same path as the current 「Infirma」. What Clairlycia wanted to change is the structure that will generate such kind of loser. Hence she never said anything about making an 「Infirma」 country.”

And then, with that reasoning, Leu, as a 「Strega」, had no problem joining their camp.

“Of course, I never said that we don’t have a chance of winning. After all, the 「Infirma」 is in this world. There’s no way of gathering every member in this country, but numerical advantage is the strongest in my world, you know? Also — not having anything is also a type of strength.”

The servants remained quiet, probably still not able to completely digest everything.

However, it was necessary for them to accept it.

Reiji shut his mouth, and pushed the tide towards their representative — Tifalycia.

“Do you accept?”

“……I cannot accept.”

—Didn’t work huh.

As Reiji was going to sigh again, he noticed the determined eyes she looked at him with.

“I cannot accept, but……I know that what is necessary for the current me — us is not about accepting.”

Those words.

Her expression.

Reiji could feel tremendous conviction.

“—So you do understand.”

He could not suppress the smile forming on his mouth.

That was the unspeakable feeling of excitement he felt when his hacking was successful, or when his opponent's actions were completely in his grasp.

He immersed in that utmost joy which surged from the core of his body only for an instant.

He immediately changed his smile into a sluggish laughter.

"By the way, the **Ruler** of this country is you. And so, I will be the NEET at the back."

"……Ha? Niito?"

"Eh? For what reason did you think that I lend you my strength?"

"D……Don't tell me……Don't tell me……!"

"If I am behind the **Ruler** that is going to unite this world, then I can do anything I want to do, and absolutely not have to do anything that I don't want to do — in other words, I will obtain the ultimate NEET environment!"

The **Hero** gripped his fist strongly and voiced out the worst kind of wish brazenly…

"Well, that's how it is, so work hard for my sake."

And tapped on her shoulder.

The former 「Elf」 royal princess squeezed out the strength from her entire body while shaking and spoke.

Chapter 4:
NEET and Hero

Next day.

The 「Liberator」 country of Tifalycia's group that had obtained a temporary victory and a new objective would now welcome a momentary stabilization — or so they thought.

An unexpected development awaited before them.

「Beastia」 declared a **Heroic War** against 「Liberator」.

"That's unbelievable……!"

Tifalycia was talking to the servants in the audience chamber, when she saw the magic formation spread out in the sky above and muttered to herself in disbelief.

「Beastia」 Napoleon Bonaparte

VS

「Liberator」Houbami Reiji

Field: Tistel

Victory Condition: Subjugation of the enemy **Hero**

Victory Reward: 「Beastia」 Tistel Castle's governance

「Liberator」 Tistel Castle's governance

"M-Mistress……!" "H-How can this be!" "Did you accept the **Heroic War**!?" "Why did you do such a reckless—"

"N-No……I did not acknowledge this……!"

Within the castle that fell into chaos in an instant, Tifalycia was even more confused than the servants.

Heroic War would not happen unless an agreement had been reached between the **Rulers**.

That was guaranteed by the **Great Contract Magic**.

And in the current situation, 「Infirma」 — the **Ruler** of the country 「Liberator」 was Tifalycia.

At least that's what the people in the castle believed.

Then, let alone Tifalycia herself agreeing to it, there wasn't even an application for war that was received, why did the **Heroic War** happen—?

The thoughts reached a dead end at this point, and could not advance any further.

What was left was simply the enumeration of words.

Why. How. Incomprehensible—

Tifalycia unconsciously peeked at the **Hero** next to her as she fell into confusion.

“—My oh my, all of you seem to be confused.”

That voice.

It was neither loud, nor unique.

Even so, everyone in that place shut their mouths immediately, and focused their attention towards the owner of that voice.

At the entrance of the audience chamber.

Before anyone knew, a petite girl stood there.

She had burning red hair and wore a dress in white and gold with a mini skirt.

Even though the girl looked like she was just past ten years old, an empress-like dignity could be felt from the elegant smile showing on her face that still had traces of childishness.

And, more than anything—

“Wha……”

Tifalycia noticed something, why that girl’s voice held such power, why that childish appearance contained such pressure — she immediately

comprehended.

Before the surrounding realized that fact, the red-haired girl slowly walked towards her.

The invader that showed up at the audience chamber during **Heroic War**.

And that girl was walking straight towards Reiji and Tifalycia.

“__”

Leu, with her black robe fluttering, attempted to stop her.

“「**Please do not obstruct me**」?”

In an instant, a seal appeared on the girl’s forehead, and at the same time as the magic formation appeared, Leu’s movement immediately stopped.

Then she smiled at Leu who just stopped there…

“Oh. Assaulting directly without using any magic, your power has really been sealed.”

Saying so, the girl looked around, and told the servants that put up their stances after Leu’s movement triggered them.

“「**You people as well**」”

Their bodies also unnaturally stopped moving.

Tifalycia muttered along with astonishment.

“**Realtà**—”

The seal of **Five Fangs in Harmony** (Beastia), the large **Destiny** that could not be hidden, and the **Realtà** that restrained even the movement of a 「Strega」 Princess with just a sentence — there was no doubt about it.

She. She was exactly—

"……You are the **Hero** of 「Beastia」?"

Before his very eyes. Reiji asked as if for confirmation to the girl who had stopped just a few meters before them.

The girl nodded at those words and spoke.

"It is our first meeting. 「Elf」 — No, it is 「Infirma」 now……**Hero** of 「Liberator」 is it? Houbami Reiji-sama."

She gracefully held the rim of her dress, and bowed elegantly.

Their eyes were robbed away by that series of professional actions for an instant.

Tifalycia noticed Reiji's change.

He, who had always been carefree, knitted his brows unlike his usual behavior.

His gaze wandered between the magic formation in the sky above and the girl before them, seemingly in doubt about something that might be amiss.

She had never seen Reiji like that.

The **Hero** Reiji that Tifalycia knew should be a person made up of sloppiness, sluggishness and laziness.

He was feeling troubled as the **Hero** of 「Beastia」 was currently before them.

Certainly, her child-like appearance did not fit the image of a **Hero**.

However, that vast **Destiny** disproportionate to her appearance was indication that she was the **Hero** of 「Beastia」—

And thinking up to there.

She noticed.

“Eh? **Hero** of 「Beastia」?”

Like what was shown by the magic formation in the sky, the **Hero** of 「Beastia」 was none other than Napoleon Bonaparte.

However, the **Hero** Napoleon Bonaparte whom Tifalycia had heard about was a robust middle-aged man that was the type to stand before the army and lead them.

There was not a single bit of resemblance to the girl before her eyes.

“Oh, what is the matter?”

The girl narrowed her eyes, and asked the obvious with an innocent smile fitting of her age.

An even more grim expression flashed on Reiji's face for a moment, then he immediately changed into a big smile.

"No no, I have no idea what happened at all. Could it be that the **Heroic War** was initiated by you as well?"

"Yes — 「**You over there, please become my chair**」"

The servant that the girl pointed at tilted his head in confusion, then became shocked that his body moved irregardless of his will.

Then the girl just sat down on the servant that went down on his fours before her eyes, and smiled gracefully.

"Just like this, my **Realtà** can make any impossible things possible."

"……Hence, you can find a replacement as **Hero**, and initiate a **Heroic War** without **Ruler**."

"It helps that you can comprehend quickly."

The girl maintained her composed smile, and Tifalycia was astonished.

"Th-Then, this person is the real **Hero** of 「Beastia」 Napoleon—"

"No way."

"……Eh?"

Not answering Tifalycia's question, Reiji continued while laughing frivolously.

"So. The omnipotent **Hero** of 「Beastia」, what have you come here for?"

Reiji shrugged his shoulder purposely, and the girl smiled…

“Of course, to conquer this place.”

By me alone—

The instant Tifalycia heard the words added on, she noticed the smile from her mouth twisting into a sadistic one, and a cold shiver ran down her spine.

Such a small girl. Just one person.

Just looking at the meaning alone, Tifalycia would probably think 『Such an idiotic thing is impossible to be done』.

However, a **Hero** with such vast **Destiny** coming alone to conquer, could not be laughed off as a bluff.

Not through logic, her body could not help but comprehend it.

Perhaps understanding the mood, the girl slowly pointed her finger at Reiji and the others.

“You — No, you people have gone overboard. The 「Infirma」 that illegally occupied the territory of 「Beastia」 — and gave the founding declaration of 「Liberator」. Even the most tolerant race will also snap, you know?”

Tilting her small head, she spoke with a cute gesture.

It was an act that should garner smiles originally, but it felt rather scary for some reason.

It was not just Tifalycia, it was the mutual thought of every member that was overwhelmed by her power in that place.

“That’s how it is, so please allow me to conquer this place now.”

In contrast with her lighthearted words, tremendous will and pressure was conveyed.

They were bearing witness as to why a **Hero** was a **Hero**.

Words were…lost. In the restrained — atmosphere.

“—Kuha…ahahahahahahaha.”

Only one person. Reiji was the only one totally unconcerned with her intimidation and laughed.

Laughed and laughed.

From his heart, from the bottom of his stomach.

Laughed and laughed — and quietly spoke.

“Try it, that is if you can.”

It was an obvious provocation.

It was words spoken only for the sake of poking at the opponent’s nerves.

The instant they understood that, everyone in that place cowered and thought.

—It was over.

For what reason..did Reiji say that.

They could not understand it in their hearts, and with some anger mixed in, they stared at him—

And opened their eyes wide at those freezingly cold eyes.

That cold gaze was only directed at the girl.

He threw out a mutter.

“Rather, do you really think you can end this with that level of bluffing?”

“……Blu…ff?”

Tifalycia murmured, and the girl furrowed her brows as if she was sad.

“Oh my, that was unexpected.”

Her expression changed to a chilling smile.

“Are you saying that I cannot defeat you?”

“How would that be possible, right?”

Immediate denial.

Reiji continued as if it was natural.

“As long as you can control these people here and restrain me, you can easily touch my seal. If my seal is touched, the winner of this **Heroic War** will be 「Beastia」. That’s just too convenient.”

“Eh……th-that basically means.”

“Well, it basically means we have no way out.”

“Wha—”

“That’s normally speaking.”

With a snicker, Reiji lectured Tifalycia who asked him what he meant.

“Think about it. In a **Heroic War** where victory is guaranteed, why would the real 「Beastia」 **Hero** have to personally come all the way here?”

“That’s……to confirm that there is no potential danger to the victory.”

“Even though she has just revealed a huge secret of using body replacement? There is nothing but risk to the 「Beastia」 if we leaked this to other races.”

“Ah—”

That’s right. Because it was revealed so clearly, and along with her overwhelming **Destiny**, she had neglected it, but that information should certainly be very important.

“Please allow me to interject here.”

As if to answer Tifalycia’s doubt, the girl quietly interrupted.

“Have you forgotten my ability?”

Turning her gaze away and speaking “「**Sit**」”, one of the servants sat down on the spot—

“Yes, that.”

Reiji pointed out.

“Even though we have no way out normally, the reason we have a way out now.”

From the zoned out Tifalycia, to the meaningfully smiling girl.

As Reiji moved his gaze, he smiled thinly.

“Your **Realtà** that can make the impossible possible is only targeted at existences that possess intelligence, and can only be activated when the target holds feelings of fear and awe towards you, isn’t that right?”

“……Ha? Feeling..is the condition……?”

Tifalycia responded in place of the girl.

Reiji spoke.

“Did you not notice? Her entrance, method of using ability, speech, every behavior always exerted intimidation — a bluff to make herself look formidable. Of course that’s not meaningless. A reason for that naturally exists.”

That reason was—

“For the sake of using **Realtà** on me. To put it on a bigger scale, for the sake of using **Realtà** to prevent your existence from being exposed. Well, the people in this world unconditionally feel awe towards a **Hero**, and even I can tell the greatness of this fella’s **Destiny**. The conditions are already sufficiently—”

“Wai……Wait a moment!”

Her thoughts…could not keep up.

Tifalycia pressed down on her chest with her hand, noticed that her heart was beating faster, and took a deep breath.

Then she asked with a trembling voice.

“Why……Why..do you know that her **Realtà** has such a condition……?”

“Try to think in reverse. If it can be used unconditionally, why is it necessary to initiate a **Heroic War**?”

“That’s……b-but, in the end, why did the **Heroic War** happen—”

“**Hero’s** body replacement.”

“Eh?”

“Even though she can make a **Hero** replacement, why do you think that she cannot make a **Ruler** replacement?”

That caught her attention.

Tifalycia opened her eyes.

“Well, leaving the details aside — Considering the above points, then thinking back on the scene of her using her **Realtà**. Do you think that it can be used on things other than people?”

All those words hinted her in the form of questions.

And the answers appeared without any doubt.

“If you reach up to here, then you should understand the reason I mentioned that feeling is the activation condition and a bluff was used for that sake.”

With his gaze as if urging her, Tifalycia unconsciously spoke those words from her mouth.

“If **Realtà** could be used on you, she would have used it already……”

Just like how she used it on the servants.

If she could use it on Reiji, there was no reason not to use it—

Reiji showed a smile from the relief after letting out everything, and looked straight at the girl.

“Well, it’s probably the effect of the first **Heroic War**. Despite the 「Beastia」 winning that rigged war, they made a major blunder of having the territory illegally occupied, and letting the other side give the nation founding speech of 「Liberator」. They probably said something like affirming a certain victory next time anxiously.”

“Anxiously……?”

Not…angrily?

Tifalycia interrupted him as she could not understand it, and Reiji fluently answered.

“What 「Beastia」 is looking at is not here. Not an insignificant existence like 「Liberator」. It’s all the other races.”

“All the other races……Ah.”

Tifalycia also noticed.

The blunder 「Beastia」 had made in the real meaning.

“They challenged us in an official battle like **Heroic War**. Of course all the other races will pay attention to it. 「Beastia」 fell behind an [Absence], a defective **Hero**, some 「Infirma」, or something like that.”

Such a blunder would definitely not be missed by other races. If there was an evaluation sheet, it would have been a demerit.

“Of course, it’s not just a problem of face, if all the other races acknowledged the independence of 「Liberator」, and made a decision that the land here becomes the property of 「Liberator」, this land will become the frontier fort for the sake of conquering 「Beastia」 land.

From Tifalycia’s perspective, the official acknowledgement of 「Liberator」 country was the best they could wish for, even if they had to assist the other races in attacking 「Beastia」 as a result, it was not a bad condition.

And from the other races’ perspective, acknowledging the independence of such a gathering of motley crowd that could not even be called a small

country, which can easily be crushed, would not be a problem at all.

In other words, 「Liberator」 and other races shared mutual benefits, while being a drawback towards 「Beastia」.

“What the 「Beastia」, with such a background, took, was the move of having just the **Hero** alone to conquer. Why is it necessary to do that — you already know, right?”

“If **Hero** single handedly obtained an overwhelming victory, for the sake of resolving all the problems……”

—That’s right. In order to wipe away their blunder, they need to perfectly recover what they lost immediately, an absolute victory was necessary to shut the other races up.

As the method to achieve that, even if they had to take the risk of revealing the secret of her using a body replacement, she was obliged to conquer them by herself—

“If that’s not it, then here. I will not run or hide, so make me listen to you.”

Reiji provoked her with a frivolous attitude.

The girl put her finger to the corner of her mouth elegantly.

“—You are interesting after all.”

Like a rose with poisonous thorns — she laughed devilishly.

Laughed and laughed.

She pointed out the finger that was next to her mouth.

With her palm facing upwards.

“「**Every person in this place, become my subordinate**」”

The seal on her forehead shone brightly — everyone except Reiji and Tifalycia stood behind the girl.

Their pupils already did not contain their own will.

Before the neatly lined up servants, the girl maintained seated on the back of a servant…

“How unfortunate, it seems that not a single person has agreed with your words from the bottom of their heart.”

And snickered while tilting her small head.

“What you spoke of is the truth, I carry the risk of exposing my secret — even so, it doesn’t change the fact that I can suppress this place alone, does it?”

Reiji spoke with a bitter smile at the girl’s words.

“I believe that saying you alone in this situation is retortable, but — I can still affirm that you have no intention of using force like this.”

“Oh my, why do you say so?”

“Why you ask…Isn’t it because the best possibility of defeating 「Liberator」 while protecting your secret still exists? Hence you are still

chit chatting with me like this now.”

“It is fun to converse with you.”

“That’s my honor, but — wouldn’t it be boring to remain in a stalemate like this?”

Stalemate.

The girl was trying to aim for a zero risk victory of making Reiji yield.

For that sake, she continued to search for methods, and could not proceed further.

On the other hand, Reiji and Tifalycia were in a despairing situation, but they still had a slim chance as they held the secret of that girl in their hands.

The two sides could be said to be in an exquisite balance.

“Although it’s impossible — if you can let me enjoy an even greater time than now, I cannot ask for more.”

Depending on the condition, she would take on his invitation.

She hinted as such, and Reiji floated a smile.

“I can guarantee it. You will absolutely have fun if you do a 「**Showdown**」 with me.”

“「**Showdown**」?”

“Putting it bluntly, it is literally a **Heroic War** between just you and me only.”

Reiji did not miss the expression on the girl in that instant.

“That is — wonderful.”

On that unimaginably cute and elegant face, overflowing from the bottom of her heart was — an aggressive smile.

“In that case, if I win this 「**Showdown**」, you have to unconditionally accept—”

“I will have you unconditionally retreat from here if I win……I pledge in the name of **Great Contract Magic**.”

Hearing that, her smile became greater, but she soon wiped it off.

“So, what kind of 「**Showdown**」 are we doing?”

The girl asked calmly as her high class dress swayed.

“Anything.”

“……Ha?”

Reiji as well.

He showed a ferocious smile that would not lose to hers.

“Hmm? Did you not hear me? I’m saying that since I won’t lose in any kind of showdown, you can decide the method.”

He offered her.

Even though she possessed overwhelming **Destiny**, and maintained a calm attitude, she could not help but show a serious expression.

"……That is. I wonder if you are underestimating me. Or are you trying to irritate me and make me choose a showdown that is advantageous to you?"

"Well, which is it? It may not be any of those?"

Reiji purposely answered her frivolously, the girl narrowed her eyes coldly for an instant, and immediately smiled.

"Alright."

At the same time she saw the pale light of magic formation informing the establishment of the contract.

Without a single shred of hesitation, she spoke.

"Then, can you guess who am I?"

Wrapped in a dress of white and gold, the girl's petite body contained an unbelievable amount of **Destiny**.

As a **Hero** of 「Beastia」, who was she—?

"That's obviously…Napoleon—"

Speaking up to there, Tifalycia suddenly stopped.

Was that…really the case?

Napoleon Bonaparte was certainly displayed in the air above, and the girl before her eyes also emitted **Destiny** befitting of a **Hero**.

It was clear to see that she was Napoleon (**Hero** of 「Beastia」) — Hence it was suspicious.

Considering common sense, nobody would make a question out of something so obvious.

Then.

If that’s the case.

Why exactly was she—?

“Yes, you got it right.”

Seeing Tifalycia pondered, Reiji spoke as if he understood everything she was thinking.

“Your thoughts are correct. She cannot be Napoleon Bonaparte like what you said just now.”

—That’s right. As a visitor from the same world, Reiji knew the Historical Figure of that name. He could tell.

Napoleon Bonaparte.

Anyone would know as long as they received the obligated education, a hero of France in the nineteenth century.

A king of the world who dominated the major half of the European Continent in the center of the world at that time.

“Since that Napoleon is a man.”

“Eh……b-but—”

What Tifalycia could see was the display of 「Beastia」 Napoleon Bonaparte written in the air and the young petite girl before her.

The girl smiled brightly.

“I forgot to mention it, but is free discussion and one try at answering fine? If considering the objective of breaking the stalemate, I do not like to drag this for too long, I also want to set a time limit if possible.”

As she added more words, she displayed her overwhelming presence — her **Destiny** as usual.

And the **Five Fangs in Harmony** seal shown on her forehead could only prove that she was the **Hero** of 「Beastia」.

In other words — She could only be Napoleon Bonaparte, but at the same time, it was not possible for her to be Napoleon Bonaparte.

……Could it be that Reiji showed an incomprehensible expression after seeing her because he noticed that?

Tifalycia only reached that thought now, and understood why the girl had set that question as the content of the 「**Showdown**」.

The girl had felt that Reiji did not know her true identity from the start.

Hence she had immediately decided the content of the 「**Showdown**」.

So to speak, that was the question that would bring her certain victory.

The「**Showdown**」 was decided before that method was designated—

“How about it — **Hero**-sama of 「Liberator」?”

She tilted her small head, showing an adorable yet poisonous smile.

She was certain of her victory, and urged Reiji who was feigning anxiety.

At the sadistic behavior of the little girl **Hero**.

“……That’s not necessary, is it?”

The **Hero** of 「Liberator」 remained face down as if acknowledging his defeat, and answered in a small voice.

……Could it be?

Really…acknowledging defeat—

As if seeing through such thoughts in Tifalycia.

“It will be decided immediately.”

Snicker.

Reiji said with a hearty laugh.

“Do you know about the『Magician’s Choice』?”

Though he threw that question at the girl, he continued without waiting for her answer.

“Well, it’s the fastest if you see it for yourself. Oi, Tifa.”

“—!?”

“Come over here and help out a bit — huh what? Why suddenly the red face?”

“J-JJ-Just now……Just now…Ti-Ti-Tifa……!”

“……? I did say that.”

In front of Reiji who tilted his head, unable to get her point.

The girl in black robe suddenly appeared.

“Master.”

“Ou!? —Leu, you, why are you moving? I told you that even if you escaped from **Realtà**, you have to stay still!”

“Now’s not the time for that.”

“……No, what’s with now’s not the time for that……this is quite an important matter though?”

Leu magnificently ignored Reiji’s complaints, and spoke after leaning closer.

“Master…probably doesn’t know.”

“About what?”

“Only spouses can use nicknames to call each other.”

“……Hmm?”

That’s…basically.

!
ホアアア

“Using a nickname to call the opposite sex is the same as proposing.”

……

…….

Reiji scratched his head.

“Well, that’s that.”

“—That’s that!?”

Hearing Tifalycia’s shouting, he lightly spoke.

“No you see, calling you Tifalycia every time is troublesome so it’s abbreviated.”

“Trou……”

“Enough already, come and help. I’m going to prove that I have the prediction ability now.”

“Why had I summoned this person — huh, prediction…ability?”

As Tifalycia was seriously pondering about Reiji’s casual remark, she heard a word that she could not leave alone and raised her head.

“Aah. You often felt unbelievable right? I will reveal the secret behind it. Using this card.”

Reiji took out a stack of cards facing up, and spoke after verifying that no trick was done to it.

“By the way, I have predicted that she will be the one doing this card guessing. Of course, the card this one’s going to choose now as well. As for the proof—”

Reiji took out a piece of paper folded right in the middle from his chest pocket.

“Just like this, I have written the answer on it. —I will ask you to hold it.”

Reiji passed the two pieces of paper to the girl, nobody knew what was written inside.

“Alright. Then — please choose one of these two evenly split stacks. Simple right?”

After pointing to one of the two stacks, he splitted that stack evenly into two, and asked her to choose again.

Repeating it over and over, the last two — Queen of Heart and King of Spade were left.

“There, which will you choose?”

“……This.”

“Okay, then this Queen of Heart is the card of destiny that you chose. — Please open up the paper I prepared beforehand.”

As Reiji asked, the girl silently opened up the paper — and opened her eyes wide.

What was written there was — Queen of Heart.

“Eh……Wh-Why……!? It’s certainly what I chose……!”

“That’s why I told you it’s a prediction ability.”

Seeing Reiji laugh frivolously, the girl spoke with a thin smile.

“—Can I try it as well?”

“Hmm?”

“I cannot eliminate the possibility of you two collaborating that just now.”

“Aah, that’s fine. I believed that you would say that so I have prepared the prediction of yours also.”

Reiji gallantly accepted and took out a similar piece of paper.

“Of course, you can also hold on to this. After all, the card that you will choose is already decided.”

Reiji smiled confidently, and the girl showed a similar smile as she replied.

“—I look forward to this.”

And so, Reiji mechanically divided the card into two stacks, and continued asking the girl to choose a side — and reached the situation of having Ace of Spade and Two of Heart left, similar to Tifalycia.

“It’s the last. Which will you choose?”

“……Then the Two of Heart here.”

“Understood. Then I will remove this, and the final remaining one is your chosen card—”

“Please wait.”

“Hmm? What is it?”

“By the way — if I have chosen the Ace of Spade here, what do you intend to say?”

An incomprehensible question. What meaning would there be in asking that —

As Tifalycia thought so, Reiji snickered.

“Of course, it’s obvious that I would say that the card you picked is your chosen card of destiny.”

“……Eh?”

If Ace of Spade was not chosen, then remove the other card and the remaining card would be the card of destiny.

If Ace of Spade was chosen, then that would be the card of destiny?

That meant.

That meant…in other words—

“Based on what was written on that paper, no matter how the person picks, the last card left will be Ace of Spade.”

Choosing the side that had Ace of Spade inside would remain.

Choosing the side that did not have Ace of Spade inside would be removed.

From the start till the end, it appeared that Tifalycia was choosing, but it was actually Reiji controlling, so it was obvious that the predicted card would be correct.

“Wha — Th-That’s just cheating.”

Contrary to Tifalycia complaining about unfairness without a thought.

“—Fu…Fufu…Ahahahahahahaha!”

The girl covered her face and laughed. She laughed.

“Making others think that they were choosing with their own will, but they were actually guided to the choice that was decided beforehand……Fu…fu…Magician’s Choice is a really suitable way of calling it.”

“I know right?”

Reiji also showed a hearty smile.

“Have you understood that the 「**Showdown**」 you picked is similar?”

Sarcasm was mixed in that smile.

The girl immediately ceased her laughter, and curled up her lips challengingly…

“In other words, the sure win 「**Showdown**」 I chose is actually a sure lose 「**Showdown**」?”

“—Eh?”

Reiji's consideration. The girl's answer, she could not keep up.

The prediction cheat Reiji showed just now…was also used in the 「**Showdown**」 with the girl?

—No, it's different.

He let her choose the 「**Showdown**」.

"From the moment you showed that you could not understand her name, you already considered this……?"

"No."

The one who denied Tifalycia's muttering was the silver haired girl in the black robe.

Leu, who challenged the girl at the start, and was robbed of her freedom — or rather allowed her freedom to be robbed.

She faced Tifalycia expressionlessly like a doll, and quietly told her.

"Master has considered this situation much earlier — from before the 「Beastia」 initiated the **Heroic War**."

"——Ha?"

That's too much.

That's too much…it had to be…a lie.

She deemed it as a bluff or an exaggeration.

If such an absurd situation, such an impossible situation, happened in reality.

That would be the same as predicting the future—

“Well, thanks to the powerful information collection method, I have grasped various things before this.”

Reiji lightly shrugged his shoulder, and continued without denying Leu’s words.

“It will be fine if you included the possibility that the person appearing before us may be different from the **Hero** of 「Beastia」 we know of at the moment. So — I have been checking the answer since the start.”

“Checking the…answer……?”

“The answer…has always been there.”

His index finger pointed upwards.

He was pointing at the name of the **Hero** grandly displayed there.

“Eh? But that’s—”

“Aah, this fella cannot be Napoleon. In fact, the **Hero** of 「Beastia」 I saw before was also a musky man.”

Speaking up to here, Reiji laughed.

“However, if you exclude the part known as impossible, the answer cannot be anything other than Napoleon.”

Contradictory words.

As if unwinding the tangled up logic, Reiji gently spoke.

“Well, during the time that fella was explaining her **Realtà**, I had more or less confirmed. **Realtà** seems to be the representative of the **Hero’s** true nature.”

“That’s……”

Tifalycia said before.

“{Make any impossible things possible} —That fella displayed her **Realtà** like that. The moment I heard that, the super famous phrase spoken by a Historical Figure that any Another World Resident (Us) would know flashed across my head.”

That was—

“The word impossible is not in my dictionary.”

Amongst the maxims spoken by that Historical Figure, it was probably the most famous one.

Therefore, that could only be his — her **Realtà**.

“Making anything impossibility possible. The person who said that maxim is—”

Reiji pointed at the girl who did not interrupt him at all during that lengthy explanation and spoke.

“Napoleon Bonaparte.”

“—Fu. Fufu…ufufufufufufu……”

The girl who received the answer laughed ominously.

And continued elegantly.

“You are wrong, my name is not Napoleon.”

“—Eh!?”

Only Tifalycia was shocked and anxious.

“Not your name.”

Reiji immediately answered as if it was natural.

“Fufu, you have even seen through this much.”

The girl confidently smiled, and shrugged her shoulders as if it could not be helped.

“My name is not Napoleon — However, if asked whether I am the existence known as Napoleon, I can only answer yes (oui).”

She exaggeratedly sighed, and added with a twisted smile.

“Because the Napoleon Bonaparte you know is a character created by me.”

The aggressive smile that did not suit her young face weirdly fitted her.

“Created…character……?”

Reiji asked back in reflex, the girl returned to her angelic smile and spoke.

“Yes. My country has the environment that allows the nurture of female Historical Figure as symbolism, but a position of Emperor still has to be a man.”

“……Such…issue huh.”

Tifalycia timidly muttered, and the girl calmly answered.

“That’s the issue. Though I’m fine with emerging to the surface—”

“That’s a lie.”

Reiji sharply cut her off, and pointed out.

“A person that really thinks as such would create a body replacement in this world? Your true nature is only the mastermind that controls the people you produced from the back.”

“Oh my, would such a person venture into the enemy base alone?”

“Yeah. You, who is calculative, aggressive, hedonistic, sadistic, is greedy to your own desire. Such people possess unique values, failure seen from an objective perspective is often not a failure to them. Anyway, the end of history (Waterloo)[3] was also affected by that, right?”

“Who knows? I believe that was mostly elder brother’s arbitrary judgement. Well, I cannot deny if you say that I had led the events towards that.”

The girl poked her face with her finger, and smiled cutely.

“Elder…brother……?”

Towards Tifalycia’s muttering…”My oh my, how careless of me” The girl pretentiously covered her mouth with her hand, got off from the back of the servant (chair), and elegantly lifted the hem of her dress.

“Paulette Bonaparte.[4] That is my name.”

A refined smile.

That suspicious smile made Reiji unable to bear curving his lips upwards.

“—I see. That’s how it is huh.”

The second sister of Napoleon Bonaparte in the family tree, Paulette Bonaparte.

She, who could not compare to her elder brother’s fame, was actually the person controlling the France Emperor Napoleon Bonaparte, praised as a hero by famous artists, feared as the demon of Corsica by enemy nation’s citizens, reprimanded as the squanderer of human life by own country’s citizens, from the shadows.

“And as such, instead of the brother Napoleon, it’s the sister Paulette that was summoned to this world as 『Hero Napoleon』.”

“Although it’s an honor to be summoned as 『Napoleon』, I am somewhat dissatisfied that my **Realtà**, 「**Impossibile does not exist** (Impossible n’est pas francais)」 has a condition attached.”

“That’s a lie, isn’t it? You understand your true nature. Certainly, impossibility may not exist in your perspective. However, just like creating the existence 『Hero Napoleon』 requires your brother that is a real person, a condition is necessary.”

Therefore, when she was summoned as the **Hero** of 「Beastia」, she had established a body replacement from the start.

Using the 「**Impossibile does not exist** (Impossible n’est pas francais)」 **Realtà**, she created a person that believed himself to be Napoleon.

“{Impossibile does not exist (Impossible n’est pas francais). However, it is only limited to the people who did not discover the mastermind that is Paulette (Bluff)} —Doesn’t that fit you just perfectly?”

Reiji spoke in a mocking tone.

“Do you know that there are two elements necessary to make a person move?”

Paulette Bonaparte smiled thinly.

“Fear and benefit. If these two are presented, it will be simple to make a person move without appearing at all on stage. If you notice this, anybody can do it.”

“____”

The girl calmly spoke those things, causing Tifalycia to shudder.

Even if the theory was understood, not anybody could do it.

And despite losing the 「**Showdown**」, having many of her secrets exposed by Reiji, she was not panicking in the slightest, and stood there with a composed spirit.

In the first place, understanding her **Realtà** did not change the threat it had.

It was a fact was that the absolute **Great Contract Magic** had mis acknowledged the **Ruler** of 「Infirma」 due to her power.

“In any case.”

The girl suddenly opened her mouth, Tifalycia was surprised and anxiously shifted her gaze away.

Paulette spilled a smile at Tifalycia and spoke.

“Since my defeat here is unshakable, I shall retreat according to the contract.”

She turned her heels around.

And walked away with a crisp attitude.

“……Eh?”

At the same time Tifalycia let out her voice.

“Aah, by the way.”

She stopped her feet, turned to look over her shoulder at Reiji, and laughed.

“I have achieved my objective for coming to this place, so I will look forward to the formal **Heroic War**.”

She never intended to finish things right there from the start.

The real objective was something else, and it was achieved.

And there was the intention of starting another battle immediately.

At the speech of Paulette that seemed to turn the tide of everything that happened until then.

“That’s my line.”

Reiji confidently smiled, and put his hand on Tifalycia’s shoulder next to him.

“Tifa (This one) said so just now.”

“!?”

In place of Tifalycia who was so shocked that her voice did not come out.

Opening her eyes wide for the first time at the last moment, Paulette laughed uncontrollably.

“That makes me — look forward to it even more.”

Chilling words and gaze remained.

The mastermind controlling the king of the world gallantly left the place.

“Ah, this is bad.”

After the **Hero** of 「Beastia」 left, a temporary dismissal was announced.

Having returned to his own room, Reiji lazily laid on his bed and spoke to the dumbfounded Tifalycia next to him.

“Everything can end with a bluff……is what I thought. This has become troublesome.”

“—Eh? W-Wait a moment……the things you said just now are?”

“It’s obviously a bluff. Rather, I thought that you would understand if you heard those things, her objective — Grasping the thinking pattern of the **Hero** of 「Liberator」 (Me) and the **Ruler** (Tifalycia) has been achieved.”

“Eh……eh? Understanding us is the…real objective……?”

“Well, correctly speaking, that is also a part of it. Defeat us in that place if it’s possible, otherwise adjust for a rematch in a more advantageous condition……Damn, that side’s **Ruler** is a simple idiot and moves according to my thoughts, but it would be a different story if she is pulling the strings from behind. There’s no meaning if we win the fight but lose the war.”

She was almost deceived by those carefree words.

She wanted to be deceived.

“She’s also quite the tactician.”

Leu entered the room before anyone noticed and spoke while sitting down on the bed as if it was natural.

“Like what that **Hero** said, we can never win if we face 「Beastia」 head on. That’s why Master has been looking for a method that avoids fighting.”

“A method…that avoids fighting?”

“If we make the opponent think that fighting against us is not worth it, they would stop, right? I was inducing 「Beastia」 to think that way amongst themselves. Initiating an unreasonable war makes the representative only a tyrant. The representative would be dethroned by themselves within the race — was what I hoped for.”

“That **Hero** has already completed the preparation for the war. In other words, the wills within the 「Beastia」 is unified. She made use of the simple idiot **Ruler** for that sake.”

“A short-sighted, aggressive, foolish king during normal times can be seen as courageous and bold during war. She probably supported a simple idiot **Ruler** who would not pull back for this sake. It also matches the 『Napoleon』 on the surface. It’s easy to understand.”

“Eh……eh?”

“Basically, it’s total annihilation.”

“Well, no good, it’s the end.”

“S-Saying it like other peoples’ business……”

“In the first place, we can’t even muster up an army, right? Then how are we going to fight the **Heroic War**? Even if it’s a mock one, it is a war you know?”

“Th-That’s……the country…is just made so……”

“Do you think such an excuse would work!?”

“Uu……S-Sorry……”

“Master was the one who made the country founding declaration.”

“—!? Th-That’s right!”

“So slow.”

Leu interrupted, and Tifalycia swallowed back her words of complaint despite being not satisfied with her treatment.

If what was pointed out was correct, complaining would only be a foolish act.

Reiji peeked at Tifalycia’s behavior from the corner of his eyes, floated a smile, immediately returned to his unmotivated tone and spoke.

“Well, because it’s like this that there is a way.”

“……Eh?”

“Oi oi, did you listen properly? Leu had said it. Fighting head on that is.”

Reiji got up from his bed with an evil smile.

Then explained that method—

Chapter 5:
NEET's Scheme

—To Paulette Bonaparte.

The new battlefield known as **Universal Paradise (Aquatera Realm)** was not that much different from her original world.

The 「Beastia」 that had summoned Paulette were a mixed race which had various types of beasts as their ancestors, a race that had a much greater variety in outer appearances than the other races.

However, that did not matter to her.

Be it the existence of magic, or the tails and beast ears that they had.

They were 『People』 who possessed rationale and feelings.

As long as they were 『People』, it would be easy to make them obey and manipulate them—

The **Realtà** known as 「**Impossible does not exist (Absolute Command Authority)**」 further supported her opinion.

With that, Paulette maneuvered everything from the shadows as she had intended, continued to fight in the **Heroic War** against other **Heroes** and obtained quite a war record.

It did not matter how legendary the **Hero** was, even if she could not match them in pure strength.

As long as nothing unexpected happened, she could maneuver it.

Everything was according to her intention. According to her aim.

And eventually 『Napoleon』 would grasp the entire land of the foreign world—

As she thought that the whole time, the current situation could be said to be the first time that something was out of her expectation.

"—「Liberator」 declared war against 「Beastia」?"

Hearing the Miko of 「Beastia」 who acted as the transmitter from the summoner relaying the message while she was confused, Paulette spoke without changing her expression on the surface.

"Is that…a formal declaration?"

"Yes……it was addressed to Edolas-sama (**Ruler** of 「Beastia」) through the **Great Contract Magic**……such was the content received this morning."

"This morning……"

“As Edolas-sama received the **Heroic War** from 「Infirma」, he…um… was really angry and was going to accept it on the spot……”

“So you stopped him, and came to ask for my opinion on whether to really accept it or not?”

“Y-Yes……Please excuse my rudeness, but the current **Ruler**, Edolas-sama, is a typical [Koshka], impulsive and hasty……”

“The previous **Ruler** Terishine-sama was more cautious. —Speaking of which, Terishine-sama was a [Renard] (your specie), wasn’t she?”

“Ah — N-No, that was not my intention……”

Seeing the girl awkwardly denying it, Paulette smiled bitterly in her mind.

[Perrito], [Koshka], [Renard], [Cuniculus], [Schaf], each possessed the traits of a dog, a cat, a fox, a rabbit, and a sheep respectively.

Though they were all born in the same world, the 「Beastia」, each of whom had different roots and possessed an independent territory, they took turns to be the representative of 「Beastia」.

Naturally, frictions or discontents between the five species like that would often be seen and heard.

Despite being in the same country, factions and groups would form due to the different languages and cultures.

Such things seemed to be the same in any world.

Of course, to Paulette, being similar would only make things easier.

“—Please do not worry. I also think the same. Edolas-sama is a little too impulsive and aggressive.”

“Th-That’s right……!”

Exactly — This is why it is easy to manipulate them.

Considering the possibility of a calm person being swayed by the noise known as emotion, it would be rather easier and safer to instead provide fuel for an emotional person, and guide them according to her own intentions.

“I’m glad that Napoleon-sama held the same thoughts.”

She swung her tail showing favor as she patted her chest in relief.

Glancing at the easy to understand girl, Paulette pondered about the hard to understand enemy.

It had not been one day since Paulette had invaded Tistel on her own.

It had become an incomprehensible situation where the **Heroic War** was declared not from 「Beastia」 (own side), but from 「Infirma」 (other side).

“Umm, but, why is that? The 「Infirma」 couldn’t use a single magic — not to mention that they are untrained, I think there is no way for them to win against us. Them declaring **Heroic War** is……”

The miko girl had an expression showing that she truly could not understand as her fox ears twitched.

It was natural.

Although it was impossible according to the rules of the **Heroic War**, suppose the 「Infirma」 all over the world rose up, and obtained a military size of 100 times more than 「Beastia」, they still had no chance of victory in a proper fight.

That's why 「Infirma」 had chosen the path of servitude to other races.

With not even the military size matching the 「Beastia」 at the minimum, the 「Liberator」 that could not even be said to be a gathering, trying to fight against them could only said to be a suicidal act.

However.

"It's most likely that they are trying to invalidate the replacement **Ruler** on our side."

"Eh?"

"Needless to say, the **Ruler** should have been Tifalycia Cleargreen originally. However, she was only a person who made the country founding declaration. In other words, there was no credibility towards others, and I used that gap to make a replacement—"

As the 「Liberator」 side initiated the **Heroic War**, it would establish their achievement towards others.

With the 「Beastia」 being challenged to a **Heroic War** from the **Ruler** of 「Liberator」 known as Tifalycia Cleargreen through the **Great Contract Magic**, they had no choice but to acknowledge her position.

“Once acknowledged, we cannot make a new replacement **Ruler** anymore.”

“I—I see.”

Taking a glance at the nodding miko, Paulette confirmed the contents of the **Heroic War** written on the paper.

“Well, the fake **Ruler** was meant to forcefully make them accept the **Heroic War**, challenging us in order to nullify that is putting the cart before the horse though.”

“Certainly……the overwhelming difference in fighting strength will not change.”

“Yes. As far as the content on this goes, it will be our win no matter how many times the **Heroic War** is conducted.”

The victory condition for the **Heroic War** that was suggested by 「Liberator」 was not the subjugation of the **Hero**, but to reach a specified location.

The detail was 『From the start of the **Heroic War** until sunset is the duration, the victory condition for 「Beastia」 is to reach the Room of the Lord in Tistel Castle, otherwise 「Liberator」 will win if they can prevent that from happening.』.

In a normal 『**Hero** Subjugation War』, Reiji was in an overwhelming disadvantage without **Realtà**. Naturally, an 『Extermination War』 where soldiers fought until one side was completely annihilated, or a 『Generic War』 where opponents fought for each other’s territory would be out of question, and so she deduced that it was decided without much of a choice.

“This level of condition is nothing.”

「Liberator」 had added two conditions.

One was 『Direct violence is forbidden』, it was most likely to reduce the power of 「Beastia」 that possessed physical strengthening magic, but it was irrelevant against 「Infirma」 when there was an obvious difference in their physiques in the first place.

Rather, it could be said that the「Liberator」 without any magic would lose their only attacking method.

“If they are going to do it, I hoped that they forbade magic instead.”

“That’s……a little…”

“Well, maybe they thought that we would not accept such an extreme limitation.”

In fact, the current **Ruler** of 「Beastia」, Edolas, would have immediately accepted it enthusiastically.

If magic itself was forbidden, a strategy that Paulette had planned would not be able to execute at least.

If that were to be the case, it would become rather troublesome, but — looking at it another way, it could also be said that they did not have sufficient information.

“If I have to say something, it would be about the other condition, 『The battleground (Field) will extend from Tistel up to 「Beastia」 Union Capital Ledra』. This is the one with the problem.”

“……? Specifying the battleground (Field) is common in a normal **Heroic War** though.”

“In a Tistel Castle siege war, why is it necessary to include Ledra in the battleground (Field)?”

“Ah……C-Could it be that they want to attack—”

“Attack us…is what one would normally think.”

“Ha?”

“Even though it’s a Tistel Castle siege war, Ledra is specified as a part of the battleground (Field). This means that the possibility of a surprise assault on Ledra needs to be considered. If there is a possibility, one would think that manpower must be divided for defence like you just now. Doing so would naturally reduce the battle strength for the siege. —Now then, what is the victory condition for the enemy this time?”

“……A long duration of hold the fort.”

“What is necessary for besieging a castle is number. It matches their objective perfectly.”

The girl opened her eyes wide as Paulette provided the answers fluently.

“I-Incredible……this condition is for the sake of diverting attention from the siege war.”

“In the first place, although there is the possibility of them attacking us, there is no need to increase the defence. Leaving aside a normal opponent, they are 「Infirma」.”

“C-Certainly……”

“A person fears the unknown in a battle. In other words, the anxiety of 『I don’t know what’s coming』 will have a great effect, but it is foolish to hold an unnecessary amount of fear.”

Seeing the girl opening her mouth as if spacing out, Paulette smiled gently.

“You are leaving your mouth open, you know?”

“—P-Please excuse my rudeness.”

She mumbled as her face turned red while she covered her mouth.

“E-Even so……while the **Hero** on the other side has no **Destiny**, he seems to be quite tricky. Is he trying to be a tactician as he has no **Destiny**?”

The girl added, “Of course, it would be no match against Napoleon-sama.”

Paulette laughed.

“That may not be true.”

“……Eh?”

“Aah no. Being a tactician is definitely not wrong.”

He was the type that used his head and words to turn the situation around according to his intention.

Therefore, what was wrong was — the part that he was no match against Paulette.

Even for Paulette Bonaparte, who controlled the person known as Napoleon Bonaparte and did not leave any trace of herself in history, she had to be cautious against that person.

No, perhaps—

“Napoleon-sama?”

“—No, it’s nothing. In any case, there is nothing you need to worry about.”

“Then……!”

“Yes, let’s accept it. According to their conditions.”

With those words of Paulette, the miko was clearly relieved.

She most likely had interpreted it as — since the ever victorious **Hero** Napoleon acknowledged it, the「Beastia」 would have an easy time in the upcoming battle.

Paulette herself thought the reverse.

Hero Houbami Reiji.

As long as he was involved, something unexpected would probably happen in the upcoming battle.

Paulette was certain of that at least.

However, that certainty was the type that she would not understand without meeting him face to face and converse with him.

Hence she could not explain it to the others in 「Beastia」.

She could only handle it as a 『Suicidal act by foolish 「Infirma」』 at best.

Leading a careless army against an unpredictable enemy.

Considering up to there, she suddenly noticed.

—What if.

What if that was also a part of his strategy?

Paulette trembled in excitement, and showed a savage smile that made the miko at her side open her eyes wide.

"……I am really…looking forward to it."

She muttered those words from the bottom of her heart filled with exhilaration.

The **Heroic War** declared by the new country known as 「Liberator」.

The trigger was pulled with astonishing silence.

At the same time as the magic formation spread out in the sky.

War cries were raised from the Napoleon army and they stepped foot into Tistel territory.

Normally, instead of the paved path, they would cross through the forest where there would be no traps or ambushes, but the opponent was 「Infirma」.

Rather than getting assaulted, they would be finishing off the opponent first.

As they calmly travelled on the fastest path, they began to feel some slight incongruity.

“What’s this? There’s no reaction at all?” “Rather, there’s no presence of people.” “What’s going on?”

It did not matter what was shoved against them. They just had to repel it and strike them back — that was what they claimed, but not having any reaction at all was unexpected.

Hesitant, confused, they slowed down a little—

“Do not falter!”

They looked back due to the **Hero’s** words.

Riding a horse, overlooking from a higher position, 『Napoleon』 took the lead at the front, thrusted out his left hand and speaking with force.

“My brethren, you all are the braves who have defeated other races countless times. What is there to be wary of against an inferior specie that cannot even use magic? There is nothing that can stop us! Onward onward onward! Doing so will grant us victory!!”

“O—OOO!” “Follow the **Hero**!” “We’ll crush ‘em!!”

Along with a loud war cry, they raised their speed as they went down the path.

“—Looks like it has been successfully transmitted.”

At the back.

In the carriage that was slowly chasing after the army, the cheers of the brave soldiers entered Paulette’s ears, and she muttered to the empty space before her while she sat elegantly on a chair.

“This is thanks to you.”

At those words that sounded like soliloquy, a reply was heard.

{—N-No.}

A voice that sounded like a whisper close to her.

Paulette knew that it was the voice of the miko girl that was on standby at the far away Ledra Castle.

{I am just relaying Napoleon-sama’s instruction as it is……}

What she used just now was a synchronize magic that allowed the target’s voice to be transmitted to them without losing the intent behind it.

If it wasn’t for this, it would probably be a little troublesome to pass down the instruction to her body replacement.

“Oh you don’t have to be humble. It is a fact that this is all thanks to you.”

{Y-Yes……However, um—}

“{Why do you have to travel along with the army this time? Even though usually you would just give instruction to them to follow the patterns

agreed beforehand without going along with them to the battlefield.} —Is it?”

{—}

The girl gulped in reflex because her thoughts were seen right through, Paulette smiled as she thought.

She was really easy to understand.

“It’s simple.This time is different from usual.”

{Eh……but that means…}

“{Since the opponent is the weak 「Infirma」, won’t it be an easy win instead?} —No, in this case, being strong or weak is rather irrelevant. In the battlefield, it is not the strong or the incredible ones who grasp the glory of victory, it is the one who believes in oneself.”

That was the…empirical rule of those who took the hegemony in Paulette Bonaparte’s, nay, Napoleon Bonaparte’s world.

She pressed her hand on her chest, and grandly spoke.

“I believe in myself more than anyone. And that me thought of this. In this **Heroic War**, instead of enjoying tea in my room in Ledra and controlling the battlefield from far away according to my will like usual, I should personally participate and give out instructions.”

The miko fell silent again, and became even more confused.

While understanding how she felt, Paulette spoke as calmly as possible.

“Of course, I am not acting based on that feeling alone, you know? There is a clearer — Aah, seems like it has started.”

Paulette narrowed her eyes as she heard a commotion different from before from the outside.

{Started…is it?}

“Yes. The meaning of me being in this place will show now.”

The carriage stopped while Paulette spoke, she stepped outside, accompanied by the soldiers she picked out for this very moment, and spoke to the empty space.

“Now, I will have you all do another task.”

The abnormality happened all of a sudden.

The Napoleon army advanced along the shortest path. The soldiers rushing at the front suddenly covered their eyes, ears and nose, and stopped on the spot.

Some could not stop themselves from tearing up, some felt scorching pain in their nostrils, some fell to the ground due to a heavy impact as if their heads were bashed in.

The symptoms were varied.

If everybody had the same symptoms, the cause could still be investigated.

However, as they were suffering from totally unrelated symptoms, the unaffected soldiers were greatly confused.

“Wh-What, what happened?” “Why are you suddenly in pain……”
“Where’s the enemy!?”

“Could it be — 「Elf」 magic?”

What the 「Elf」 were proud of was the [Recognition Magic] that worked on senses.

Tistel was originally 「Elf」 territory, they also heard that the [Absence] who announced the independence possessed half the blood of the 「Elf」 royalty.

They indicated that they wanted to get rid of the [Absence] on the surface, but it was also possible that they were in cahoots at the back.

More importantly, if it was magic, it could also explain why there was no enemy there.

Then, considering the fact that 「Infirma」 did not give out the condition of 『Forbid Magic』 in the **Heroic War**—

“Calm down everyone.”

A voice echoed deeply.

『Napoleon』 calmly spoke on his horse.

“Look around carefully. Recognition magic also has a range. In other words, the user must be nearby, but — where do you see the figure of

「Elf」?”

As they confirmed many times, there was no sign of an 「Elf」 around.

“Since that is the case, there is only one answer for this phenomenon. That is — natural phenomenon. More correctly speaking, a man-made natural phenomenon.”

{—Man-made natural phenomenon?}

Hearing the miko girl asking back without thinking, Paulette smiled.

“The words seem contradicting, but there is no better way of putting it other than this. A path made from cutting open the dense forest. The wind blowing down from the mountain before us flows from Tistel to Ledra. In other words—”

“The poison in the wind blowing down from Tistel…all of it will hit us.”

Those words from 『Napoleon』 caused an unrest amongst the 「Beastia」 soldiers.

“P-Poison……?” “Don’t tell me……” “But, then I can be convinced of this miserable state we are in.”

“The points are…to the degree that normal people aren’t concerned of, and to make use of natural phenomenon.”

{Normal people aren’t concerned of is……}

“You can consider it as working better against the 「Beastia」 that are sensitive compared to other races — especially against the types that

specialize in the five senses. They made use of natural phenomenon because creating it completely through man-made ways may trigger the condition of 『Violence is forbidden』.”

No matter what army, those moving at the front were called scout, soldiers who were mainly in charge of gathering information.

What was necessary for information gathering were the eyes, nose, ears — Basically, it would naturally be the species that specialized in perception in 「Beastia」 case.

Only they were the ones showing symptoms, and the reason they showed different symptoms was because they specialized in different senses.

“That is a pretty good move, but if the opponent has incapacitated our eyes, nose, ears—”

“—Use your feet.”

A soldier girl stepped up as 『Napoleon』 spoke those words.

The girl was next to Paulette a while ago, as she glanced at the scouts specialized in the five senses fell back and her trademark bunny ears swayed, she dashed out at full speed.

Taking the risk of moving out alone, the [Cuniculus] that had great leg strength charged.

The reason was.

“After incapacitating our eyes, nose, ears, there is only one thing left. That is—”

The ground under the bunny-eared girl who ran ahead suddenly dented in.

“Trap.”

A really sudden trap.

As the area below her feet became empty, she could only let herself fall into the huge hole — or not.

She was informed by Paulette that there was the possibility of traps being installed beforehand, the moment she felt it, she immediately jumped and escaped with a hair’s breadth.

The girl advanced like that and activated one trap after another, gracefully avoiding them.

{—Incredible.}

The miko girl exclaimed, while Paulette laughed coldly.

“It is over when the traps are activated once. The thing called knowing beforehand will become the strongest weapon. And if this strong weapon is used at the wrong place, it will become a useless advantage.”

{……Don’t tell me…for that sake.}

The reason Paulette went along with the Napoleon army.

By closely following up with instructions at the scene, so that she could make the best out of the situation.

“Knowing beforehand can also be applied to the other side. In fact, our eyes, nose, ears have been magnificently incapacitated in accordance to their intention. Hence—”

Since it was a battle between opponents who knew each other well, the outcome depended on the method.

“—Look. It’s nothing if you know of the hand that your opponent is hiding. Now, the young one has opened the path! You brave ones follow!!”

While using 『Napoleon』 to give out encouraging words, Paulette diligently threw in the [Cuniculus], [Perrito], [Koshka], [Schaf] she had given special education to at suitable moments, breaking through layers and layers of traps set up by the 「Infirma」.

It seemed that the condition 『Direct violence is forbidden』 was for the sake of using traps after all.

If they had prepared all those in one night, it could only be an astonishing feat, but reversedly speaking, it only amounted to that much.

“It’s really nothing if you know about it.”

Because Paulette excelled in controlling, manipulating people, using traps against her was not a bad move, but also not the best.

The best was…to face her with a person exceeding her expectations.

Therefore—

“Hurry up — Please hurry up and face me directly, Reiji-sama.”

At the same time Paulette muttered so.

The Napoleon army had finally reached Tistel Castle.

The castle's interior was weirdly quiet.

Of course, it would be impossible for there to not be anybody deployed there like the path they came from, the 「Infirma」 people were probably hiding their presences.

Such an ominous silence, however, was not a problem to the 「Beastia」 that had high morale after breaking through the numerous traps.

Though, because there was no problem, there could be an opening to be taken advantage of.

"Uooo!" "It's our game already now that we have reached all the way here!" "Ignore the small fries, advance advance advance!"

As the 「Beastia」 had already opened the gate and swarmed into the castle in the current situation, it would be too late no matter what countermeasures there could have been.

Watching them opening the paths with overwhelming vigor and invading inside, Paulette also slowly stepped into the castle.

There really were not many people left within the castle.

Even for those servants who remained behind, they could only fearfully watch the 「Beastia」 soldiers advance from afar, unable to take any

obstructing action.

Of course, as direct violence was forbidden, force could not be used, but the same applied to the opponent as well. Making a human wall, building a barricade, there were still so many ways.

Just like the name 「Infirma (Serf)」, they were used to serve under others, and could not resist at all.

Giving those people a cold glance, Paulette advanced through the passage she went through one day ago — and finally arrived.

"……My oh my."

There was no sign of enemy even in the 『Room of the Lord』.

There were only a few people that seemed to be the close aids left in the room, they also just allowed the invasion.

With that.

Victor: 「Beastia」 Napoleon Bonaparte

""Uooo!""

As the victory condition was achieved, the soldiers were basking themselves in the victory.

In her heart was not a sense of achievement, but dissatisfaction.

"—Just this…much."

Certainly.

Paulette herself also did not consider such a hand.

In the first place, 「Beastia」 obtained Tistel from the 「Elf」.

They were illegally occupying it, so it was obvious that they would sooner or later collapse.

So they only did the nation founding speech of 「Liberator」 there.

If they did the declaration, that would mean that 「Liberator」 — 「Infirma」 would exist in the world. If they could gather just some percentage of those, they could organize a resistance faction.

As they had achieved that objective now, there was no need for the territory known as Tistel.

In other words, where they went was—

“Borrowing time for escape.”

The **Ruler** and **Hero** of 「Liberator」.

The people remaining there were probably to buy them time for escape.

That was not a bad strategy in itself, however.

“……This is…boring.”

Frankly speaking, it was disappointing.

Did Paulette overestimate them?

Even though she believed that he would do something more wonderful, more unpredictable—

As she thought so, at that moment.

{Na—Napoleon-sama!!}

A sudden voice.

What the panicking miko girl told her…was exactly the unpredictable.

{J-Just now — 「Beastia」 has succumbed to 「Liberator」!!}

When encountering an absolutely impossible situation, a human would stop thinking.

Hence it was also the same for Paulette who had expected the possibility of such an impossible situation happening.

"……When……what method?"

It took all her mind just to utter those.

{It's not something so complicated.}

The sudden voice she heard was not that of the miko girl's that she was used to hearing.

That frivolous tone.

More importantly, the only person capable of creating such a situation.

“Houbami Reiji……!”

The **Hero** of 「Liberator」.

As Paulette muttered his name, she ran her thoughts through endless doubts.

All conflicts between races in this world was resolved through **Heroic War**.

Different from a personal contract, there was no other method possible in case of a contract with the entire race.

That’s why 「Beastia」 could only go through **Heroic War** in order to make 「Liberator」 surrender.

And the start of a **Heroic War** would definitely be informed in the sky.

There was no sign of that happening as far as Paulette could confirm.

Despite that, the miko girl said that 「Beastia」 surrendered to 「Liberator」.

Just…how—

{Oi oi, **Heroic War** is not just simply army against army, race against race.}

……**Heroic War** was not simply army against army, race against race?

Those phrases caused Paulette’s thoughts to connect the pieces of the puzzle.

It was not the army that fought **Heroic War**. Neither was it a plural concept like race.

The one who fought **Heroic War** was — 『Individual』.

The instant she comprehended that.

Her eyes…opened up.

“—Don’t tell me…”

{There is no rule stating that you cannot do a 「**Showdown**」 against the **Ruler** directly during the **Heroic War**, is there?}

Reiji sneaked into the 「Beastia」 throne room, and challenged Edolas directly to a 「**Showdown**」?

With the authority of the **Ruler** of 「Beastia」 as bet.

“That idiot……!”

As Paulette spoke without thinking, Reiji laughed.

{How about sending that word to your **Ruler**-san?}

「Beastia」 had an overwhelming number and power against 「Liberator」.

Hence it was good enough for 「Beastia」 to involve 「Liberator」 in a **Heroic War**.

In that sense, Edolas, who completely looked down on 「Liberator」, would not compromise or be shaken by any threat, wanting to crush it no matter what, was the most suitable for a **Ruler**, but—

{No, well, it really helped when I told him ‘You can have authority over my life if I lose, so can you give me the authority of the **Ruler** of 「Beastia」 if you lose?’, he agreed to a 「**Showdown**」 without listening to the details.}

Reiji jokingly spoke, while Paulette muttered quietly.

“……You lured him into agreeing, right?”

{Who knows? —Well, but, to a guy who thinks that the **Heroic War** being declared from 「Liberator」 is a humiliation in itself, if the **Hero** of that 「Liberator」 challenges him to a 「**Showdown**」on top of that right before his eyes — it’s obvious that he would accept.}

She bit her lip.

The authority the **Ruler** held — the **Heroic War** authority.

When that authority was snatched away by the enemy, it meant that no matter how disadvantageous the **Heroic War** could be, 「Beastia」 would be unable to reject.

In an extreme example, magic forbidden, own side one person, opponent one thousand person, even if the **Heroic War** had such an impossible to win condition, they had to accept.

In other words — Reiji ignored the current **Heroic War**, made the **Ruler** himself, who possessed the **Heroic War** authority, surrender, so even if he lost the current **Heroic War**, he could control all future **Heroic Wars** with 「Beastia」.

"……You…got me."

Paulette purposely ignored the impulsive and aggressive ruler Edolas.

That role was brilliantly used against her.

Kicking away the common sense that '**Heroic War** is a fight with the entire race, the fight is also the amalgamated will of the race', and aiming to beat the **Ruler** that possessed the **Heroic War** authority was an unexpected move.

However, even so, there was one question left.

"……I wonder if you can tell me this for reference. How did you invade that place?"

A direct invasion into Ledra.

She could not understand the method.

Without beating about the bush, Paulette asked directly.

{When a person tries to hide, he will be found out instead.}

"……Ha?"

{You can call it Caligula effect or Streisand effect. Trying to hide would instead cause others to notice them. So — expose what you really want to hide.}

"What are you talking—"

{Try recalling. What Tifa declared was not 「Infirma」 country, but 「Liberator」 country, you know?}

With…those words.

Paulette had finally noticed a possibility that she had unconsciously eliminated until this day.

{How did I sneak in huh?}

What if…the premise that 「Infirma」 could not use any kind of magic was to be overturned—

{That's obvious. I moved from within the shadows.}

「Strega」 girl Clanleu Shimishika.

Paulette naturally knew that she was at Reiji's side.

The mysterious 「Strega」.

She had heard from others that the girl yielded to a **Hero** without any **Destiny**, and established a master-servant contract which restricted all her abilities.

The 「Strega」 that could use powerful magic lost to a **Hero** that did not even have a **Realtà**.

Paulette became interested in the **Hero** that was Reiji due to that fact, but she never held any doubt about the restriction of all the abilities.

That was because, she believed that it would be impossible for the 「Strega」, which could evenly match a **Hero** one on one, would establish a master-servant contract with the **Hero** of another race without restricting their abilities.

In fact, even when Paulette had invaded, Leu seemed to be unable to use any of her abilities.

However, if it was not unable to use, but rather did not use.

If even though she herself could not use it, the things she possessed were not actually restricted.

In order not to let people think that way, Reiji purposely revealed her to the public eyes.

Because it was a trump card, he revealed it so that others would not think that it was one.

“Everything……Everything…for the sake of this.”

With that, while Paulette was conquering the empty Tistel Castle, he easily sneaked into Ledra, and defeated the **Ruler** of 「Beastia」 — 「Beastia」 itself.

……What avoiding a fight?

Running away? Totally wrong.

He…from the start.

Was aiming for the absolute victory that would overthrow everything.

{I didn’t tell you huh? The outcome…is decided before the fight begins.}

A shiver.

She felt a trembling elation on her back.

Paulette could not suppress the smile that was forming on her mouth.

“Really……You really are — The best……!”

Exceeding any and all expectations from her. Surpassing her.

That fact made her irresistibly elated. Delighted. —Fired up.

{Well thank you. But, you aren’t satisfied by just this level, right?}

A challenging tone.

Words that he was sure she would take the bait.

“Yes — Nothing has been decided yet.”

With 「Beastia」 obtaining the victory in the **Heroic War**, 「Liberator」 lost its territory.

In return, the **Ruler** of 「Beastia」 lost in a 「**Showdown**」, 「Liberator」 snatched the **Heroic War** authority from 「Beastia」.

If the **Heroic War** authority was to be sold to other races, the core of 「Beastia」 would be shaken.

In other words — both sides suffered fatal loss, and only lacked a decisive blow.

Therefore.

{Therefore, why not do another 「**Showdown**」?}

「Beastia」 and 「Liberator」 — Between Paulette and Reiji, betting on the territory and authority that they both snatched, a 「**Showdown**」 where the winner would take all (All or Nothing).

"……It's a battle that I absolutely cannot back down on huh."

Such an invitation was what she couldn't ask for more.

The powerful emotion swelling out from the bottom of her heart caused Paulette's lips to bend into a crescent.

"So, how exactly will you do this? Since it is not in the form of **Heroic War**, you are not considering large scale, right? No, no matter what, you have to at least come here—"

{Ah wait a moment, you seem to be misunderstanding something.}

The next moment, Reiji frivolously interrupted Paulette's words.

{I'm not the one fighting you know?}

And readily continued.

"—Eh?"

{Rather, since when was I your enemy?}

At the same time his words finished.

The one appearing before Paulette’s eyes was…

{I did not fight against anyone from the start. The opponent of you, the **Hero** of 「Beastia」, is — that one.}

Beautiful blonde hair. Tasteless collar. Long…ears.

“—Tifalycia Cleargreen.”

As Paulette muttered so, the **Ruler** of 「Liberator」 was straight across her.

Anxiety…and determination.

She stared at the girl whose emotion was so easy to read.

“……Fu—Fu…fufufufufufu.”

Paulette let out a dry laugh while she spoke to the person far away.

“My opponent is her? You still like to joke as usual.”

{No? I don’t like to joke as much as you mentioned though?}

“……Then, are you saying that, she will really be fighting against me, in a 「**Showdown**」 with the fate of 「Beastia」 and 「Liberator」 at stake?”

{I’m not really forcing you. If you are fine with forfeiting, we are more than glad to accept.}

“……Are you aware of the reason you are called to this world as a **Hero**?”

{Of course, it’s obviously for the sake of the ultimate NEET life!}

“……Ha?”

Paulette’s eyes rounded as she truly could not understand him.

“Um……”

Somehow apologetic, Tifalycia interrupted.

“Sorry……I think it’s better that you don’t really…take that guy’s words seriously.”

{Oi Tifa, whose side are you on?}

“I told you not to call me Tifa.”

Seeing the duo start their bantering…

“「**Can you please not irritate me too much**」?”

The seal floated on her forehead.

The girl froze on the spot.

Basked in the **Realtà** that was 「**Impossibile does not exist** (Impossible n’est pas francais)」, the girl whose body was frozen…

{We can’t adhere to that.}

Immediately showing an expression of relief, she relaxed her body as he continued in a frivolous tone.

—It seemed like they had prepared some sort of countermeasures.

Paulette's **Realtà** could accomplish anything she said with her overwhelming **Destiny**.

To defend against such an unreasonable power that affected the heart, it was necessary to have a sense of security with backing.

As for the key to activate that sense of security, Reiji probably made use of his existence as the **Hero**. There would be nothing to worry about as long as he said so, or it could be said as planting a suggestion.

It was not simple, but also not very difficult. Because humans feared the unknown, but they could overcome the known.

"……So you have made the minimum preparation."

{Of course.}

However, despite saying so, if compared to Reiji, Tifalycia was probably an enemy many levels weaker.

She could not expect the blood boiling deception exchanges.

At Paulette who felt disappointment about that and sighed without thinking…

{You have missed out on one decisive factor.}

Reiji spoke joyfully.

{And because of that, you absolutely cannot win against her.}

Cheap…provocation.

She thought.

“—In the end, you insist on not fighting.”

{Yeah that’s right. Have you understood?}

“Yes — 120% so.”

Those words and that…smile.

They were pointed not at Reiji — but at Tifalycia.

Since any and everything had been examined, considered, and thought through.

What was left was only to advance, exterminate, and conquer.

“Very well. I shall accept the 「**Showdown**」.”

Facing Paulette Bonaparte’s chilling smile…

“—”

Tifalycia was assaulted by a feeling as if her core itself was trembling.

As long as they were residents of this world, they could only cower from the pressure exerted by the **Destiny** that Paulette possessed.

And, furthermore.

{Nice, so clear-cut.}

Inciting skillfully with words.

As a result, things moved according to how Reiji planned, Tifalycia was truly astonished.

She believed more and more that every event, including herself, was moving according to his aim.

Despite so, there was no feeling like she was being made to move.

It was at most them moving by their own will, and the result took shape in the way he wanted.

Therefore, seriously, simply speaking.

—A cunning person.

As if seeing through Tifalycia's thoughts…

{Then please feel free to do as you like now.}

Saying so at the end, Reiji's voice could no longer be heard.

From here onwards, it was necessary to act by her own will for everything.

Feeling nervous as if her shoulders became heavier at the same time she realized that, Tifalycia closed her eyes.

What she remembered…were the things that happened in that one month.

After summoning the **Hero** that was Reiji, days of being toyed around, toyed around, toyed around continued.

Amongst the memories that could only be considered as sullen.

She consciously recalled those 「**Showdown**」 she kept challenging and losing to Reiji.

How did he, for that one month, keep making her lose—

“We are good to go now I suppose?”

Paulette’s voice called out.

Tifalycia opened her eyes.

“Then, I would like to decide on the actual method of the 「**Showdown**」—”

“Before that.”

She interrupted the **Hero** of 「Beastia」.

She, the **Ruler** of 「Liberator」, spoke.

“Please let me declare again.”

Facing the determined gaze of Tifalycia, Paulette responded calmly.

“—Sure. Go ahead.”

Fully composed words. Gesture. Expression.

Towards the **Hero** that was excellent in every aspect, the [Absence] girl spoke.

“The **Ruler** of 「Liberator」, Tifalycia Cleargreen, challenges the **Hero** of 「Beastia」, Paulette Bonaparte, to a 「**Showdown**」. The 「**Showdown**」 method is—”

“……!”

A pre-empt attack by making use of negligence.

Making it appear as merely a declaration, it was actually to present the showdown method.

Tifalycia thrusted out her right hand as planned, and opened up her fist-shaped hand with her palm facing upwards…

“A one-time coin toss.”

And showed Paulette the silver coin from a foreign world resting on her palm.

“The showdown method is…a one-time coin toss……?”

It could be said to be a very simple, or an overly easy method.

“Using such a simplistic method, are you saying that you want to bet the fate of your country, your race on it?”

Paulette muttered so in astonishment, while Tifalycia nodded her head stiffly.

“I understand that your doubt is valid. However, to conduct a quick showdown in this place with no tools or items without any 『Direct

Violence』, the methods were very limited.”

『Direct violence is forbidden』 was a rule used in the **Heroic War**.

It would probably continue to apply in the current 「**Showdown**」.

“Even if the methods are limited, aren’t there other ways? Why must it be a coin toss?”

“Because there is no draw in this, and it’s difficult to cheat.”

An instant answer.

That meant, it was a prepared answer.

“Certainly, there are many other methods. However, I believe this to be rather simple and easy, without the need to decide on any detailed rules, no room for cheating, having only two extreme results, there are very limited ways satisfying these conditions.”

That was…certainly reasonable.

Taking the 『Who am I?』 showdown between Paulette and Reiji as an example, the correct or wrong answer to that sudden question could determine the outcome, but a proper explanation must be added to the correct answer.

On that point, 『Guess the side that is facing up in a coin toss』 was straightforward.

“Also — with the head or tail of just one coin, it will carry the weight of the victory or defeat of the race. Can you not feel the meaning in this

unconventional method?”

Towards Tifalycia’s stiff smile — Paulette laughed.

“Unfortunately — I have my own preference.”

The meaning was not important.

Rather, it would be better if there was no meaning.

Hence, Paulette would not agree with what she said.

Just — betting on the fate of one’s own race with the head or tail of just one coin was crazy.

And the fact that such an unconventional method came out from Tifalycia’s mouth, it would be a lie if Paulette was not tempted.

The reason was because she clearly saw the shadow of Reiji behind it.

“—Very well. I will do this showdown.”

Paulette readily agreed.

“……Then, this coin—”

Tifalycia let out a sigh of relief, and was about to toss the coin herself as if it was natural…

“「**Wait a moment**」”

But was interrupted.

In just an instant — In the gap that Tifalycia stopped moving, Paulette took the coin from her hand.

“Wh-What—”

Seeing Tifalycia panicking as expected, Paulette narrowed her eyes.

“Ah, the showdown method is a one-time coin toss, right? Isn’t it fine if I toss the coin and you guess?”

Paulette paused once, and raised the corner of her mouth.

“Or is it that doing it this way is no good?”

Those words were filled with certainty.

Paulette’s tone caused Tifalycia to keep quiet awkwardly.

Seeing that easy to understand reaction, Paulette thought of the fox-ear miko girl on reflex.

Although it was just made, the girl that was a **Ruler** of a country was only on the same level as the miko.

Paulette was slightly disappointed, but without showing that on the surface…

“Then, it is decided.”

Right after confirming the small magic formation spreading, she tossed the coin before Tifalycia could say anything.

“Ah—”

The coin spun quickly in the air before it was caught.

Paulette thrusted out her fist after catching the coin, and asked.

“Then, is the side facing up head or tail — can you make a guess?”

There was no unnatural movement in Paulette’s series of action.

A very normal coin toss. A simple and quick test of luck.

A coin toss did not have any complicated conditions attached to it in the first place.

It’s only tossing the coin, catching it in midair, and asking if the side facing up was either head or tail.

Therefore, there was no room for cheating just like Tifalycia had said — was the misunderstanding.

No, it would be impossible to cheat normally.

In fact, there was probably no trick for it in Paulette’s original world.

That’s right, if it was in the original world where she was not summoned as 『Napoleon Bonaparte』 and given supernatural power known as **Realtà**.

Tifalycia Cleargreen, or rather Houbami Reiji, might have been relieved that Paulette’s **Realtà** could not work on Tifalycia.

That’s why they did not consider such a possibility.

Paulette’s **Realtà**, that was 「**Impossibile does not exist** (Impossible n’est pas francais)」.

The possibility that such an absolute commanding authority could work on Paulette herself.

Making the impossible feat of unleashing the restrictions on Paulette Bonaparte's physical body and seeing the side of the rapidly spinning coin in air possible.

—Expose what you really want to hide?

No way.

The trump card should be kept hidden until the last—

With astonishingly heightened dynamic vision, Paulette knew that the side of the coin facing up in her hand was 『Head』.

And that knowledge was able to make room for cheating in the simple and quick test of luck that was coin toss.

That was because the way to open the hand in a coin toss was not decided.

It was already assumed that the person throwing would not know the side of the coin in the hand, so there was no reason to specify it.

Of course, Paulette had no obligation to open up the hand that she thrusted out just like that, if Tifalycia said 『Tail』, she would move her right hand over the back her left hand and open up, if 『Head』, there would be no problem if she used the excuse of falling if she opened up directly to turn her palm facing upwards before opening.

In other words, correctly understanding the state of the coin in the hand, it would be the coin tosser side, and not the coin guesser side, that would have

the clear initiative of changing it with 『Magician's Choice』.

—The outcome…is decided before the fight begins.

(It's so appropriate.)

The moment Paulette reached the current situation with her trump card still hidden, her victory could not be shaken.

That's right — it was truly decided before the fight.

The pitiful girl, who did not notice that, creased her brows.

She thought and thought.

As her thought came to an end—

"……I choose…『Head』."

She…decided.

In an instant, Paulette sighed in her heart.

……With that, it's over. It's finished.

Honestly speaking, she wanted to see the strategy that Reiji had taught that girl.

However, since the person herself was just like that, it was probably not something she would look forward to responding to.

What a pity — While thinking that…

—You have missed out on one decisive factor

She turned her right hand around.

—And because of that, you absolutely cannot win against her.

……Reiji’s words…

Bugged her like a curse.

Is this really fine?

That doubt…echoed from the bottom most part of Paulette’s heart.

Her senses heightened by **Realtà** became even sharper.

She unintentionally saw Tifalycia’s expression.

Her face that could only be seen as panicking…showed only an instance of relief.

A smile formed.

She saw it — in that instant.

Paulette’s brain that was like dried earth was nourished by the cool water known as truth.

If she reconsidered.

No, even without considering, the current situation was extremely abnormal.

Using coin toss to decide the fate of the race, it was such a showdown that questioned sanity itself.

Of course she did not believe that they would seriously bet on the low 50% possibility, but even the word reckless would not be enough to describe leaving everything to the existence known as Tifalycia.

No.

That's impossible.

At least the Reiji that Paulette knew would not make such a gamble.

In that case.

There must be a sure-win strategy.

Just like the strategy Paulette herself used.

He would have done the same thing.

……Same?

Houbami Reiji doing the same thing as Paulette Bonaparte would mean…

He had predicted that Paulette would use the 『Magician's Choice』?

……Paulette's **Realtà** could be used on Paulette herself…that should be something that could be easily deducted.

If…he correctly saw through Paulette's **Realtà**.

And made a plan that allowed him to win on top of that.

If there was a plan that would activate the instant she was certain of her victory—

—You have missed out on one decisive factor

Decisive factor. Missed out.

—And because of that, you absolutely cannot win against her.

Her. Tifalycia.

Paulette looked at the girl standing before her.

Why…was she the one standing at this place and not Reiji?

The distance or time issue could be resolved.

At least since it’s a showdown that betted on the fate of the race, it’s natural to show up himself to properly grasp the situation.

Even so, he let Tifalycia act on his behalf.

He also added the explanation that it was Tifalycia’s fight from the start.

There must be a reason.

In other words, a reason that it had to be Tifalycia and not Reiji.

Something she had, and Reiji did not.

Something Reiji could not do, and the [Absence] here could do.

……[Absence]?

In that instant, as if struck by lightning, Paulette Napoleon staggered a few steps.

She understood.

Paulette had certainly missed out on one decisive factor.

“Fu—Fufu…fu…ahahahahahahaha.”

As Paulette suddenly started laughing, Tifalycia did not show any reaction.

She strangely remained expressionless.

As if the panicking behavior before was just an act.

No — not as if it was an act.

She was actually acting.

“Fu…fufu…fu……That’s how it is…I see.”

Understanding everything, the **Hero** of 「Beastia」 reevaluated the strategist — actor in the person standing before her.

“That’s such a realistic act — Tifalycia Cleargreen.”

And then she laughed.

Laughed at herself for not knowing that she was cornered into defeat earlier.

Then — at herself who was certain of the victory after turning the table around after noticing it.

“I have always been thinking what trick you would play, but the moment I thought about that is already too late.”

It must be due to being too disappointed in Tifalycia Cleargreen.

Even Reiji could not let the powerless girl do anything. That’s what she thought.

—Even though it was such a simple matter once it was noticed.

Noticing that she was led to think about why she had not noticed it until this moment.

The purposefully hidden 「Strega」 girl (Clanleu Shimishika).

More importantly, the phrase known as the **Ruler** of 「Liberator」 — of 「Infirma」.

The country of 「Infirma」.

The rebellion of 「Infirma」—

However.

“You carry the blood of the 「Elf」 within you.”

The **Ruler** of 「Infirma」 was…the [Absence] within the 「Elf」 royalty bloodline.

“__”

Probably unconsciously, Tifalycia moved her hands as if to hide her long ears, while Paulette pointed out the decisive fact.

“What magic is the 「Elf」 most proficient in?”

There was no need to listen to the answer.

Living mainly in the forested areas, what they, who shun strangers coming from the outside, would use was [Recognition Alteration Magic] that would trick others without others noticing as long as they did not realize it.

As Tifalycia’s expression stiffened, Paulette was certain of her victory now.

“For example. If the magic is used to misidentify the coin’s head as tail and tail as head — won’t the side I secretly controlled be reversed?”

Then if the magic was undone after Paulette opened her hand, the coin in her hand would brilliantly flip side.

A trick done after seeing through Paulette’s trick on the coin toss.

If she considered that, everything could be explained.

“Despite grasping the personality of Edolas-sama (**Ruler** of 「Beastia」), I had the doubt why was the condition 『Usage of magic is forbidden』 not included in the **Heroic War**, so it was for this sake.”

Not including 『Usage of magic is forbidden』 in the Tistel Castle siege war was neither not considering the threat of 「Beastia」 magic, nor the fact that they were unable to grasp the personality of Edolas.

It was so that they could use magic themselves.

In other words, Reiji had already considered this development during the stage of initiating the **Heroic War**—

“Really…what astonishing considerations.”

Just that alone, she could only honestly admire.

The **Hero** known as Reiji was undoubtedly the strongest opponent she had fought so far.

However — even so, the victor was Paulette, who comprehended, took caution, acknowledged him as a strong enemy.

“This is the end!”

Speaking loudly…

Paulette moved her right hand over the back her left hand, opened up…

“———Eh?”

And lost her words when she saw the 『Head』 side of the coin shown.

Flipped over. Then returned to original.

Suspicious of [Recognition Magic] being casted. Concentrated.

Even if she stared a hole through it. Even if she touched it.

The result…did not change.

『Head』. 『Head』.

『Head』—

“I told you.”

The voice she suddenly heard…was unexpectedly closer than she thought.

Paulette raised her head, and recognized the figure of Reiji and Clanleu Shimishika standing right behind Tifalycia.

“You have missed out on one decisive factor, and because of that, you absolutely cannot win against her.”

“……Having the blood of the 「Elf」—”

“You’re wrong.”

In place of Reiji who immediately denied it, Tifalycia spoke apologetically.

“I……cannot use the magic of the 「Elf」.”

“Eh—”

Could not use…magic?

That meant.

That meant — not having the 『Magic is forbidden』 condition in the **Heroic War** was for the sake of making her think that Tifalycia would use magic.

As a result, it was for the sake of making Paulette open the 『Head』 side Tifalycia chose in the coin toss—?

“How can that be…treating me like an idiot……!”

Reiji spoke with a thin smile to the dumbfounded Paulette.

“Aren’t you the one treating her like an idiot? You have only been looking at me, the **Hero**, and never looked at her. She is in your sight, but you never looked at her. Betrayed by the 「Elf」, the [Absence] who took on the burden as the liberator of 「Infirma」 — that’s your degree of recognition, right?”

……That’s right.

Even the solo invasion of Tistel Castle before as well, it was to know the **Hero** known as Reiji, Tifalycia and others were only considered as extras.

“Too bad. This fella — Tifalycia Cleargreen is not just an unfortunate [Absence]. Despite being prejudiced since birth and carrying the handicap of not being able to use magic (Defect due to [Absence]), she has continued to look forward, a rare existence that possesses a stupidly strong will.”

The one who swallowed her breath as if shocked was…Tifalycia.

However, Reiji took no notice of her reaction, and continued to look straight at Paulette.

“What meaning does a title hold? Being deceived by acts, determining the weak, losing sight of something’s true nature, that doesn’t seem to be like you, whom despite being a woman, a little sister, only in the position of being used, had made use of the people on the stage instead, does it?”

“____”

That’s…right.

Why had she forgotten that?

Was it because she was summoned not as Paulette Bonaparte, but as the hero Napoleon Bonaparte, to another world, and became proud of it without realizing?

And then.

More importantly—

Reiji saw through that.

That was…the most important factor of her defeat.

"……From the start, everything has moved according to your will huh."

"And…that's what you would think?"

"Eh?"

He suddenly changed his attitude, and frivolously spoke.

"Actually, I believe that there are many impromptu performances. Well, Tifa and Leu should know."

"Eh……Eh!? You said 『Anyway, if things become bad, you just have to pretend that everything is going according to Reiji's words, then it would be fine』—"

"Well, it worked better than I thought."

"It was just a casual remark!?"

"It's a causally working remark."

“E—Even though I was finally seeing you in a new light……!”

“Eh? What?”

“—Nothing at all!”

“Even so, Master is incredible. You are so incredible that……I want to kill you.”

“Wait wait. Did you just say some really disturbing things?”

“……? Difference in values?”

“Don’t think that you can deceive me with those words!?”

The serious atmosphere softened up after one round.

It was probably done on purpose.

In consideration for the things from now on.

Every move was calculated to the utmost.

At least he made others think like that, and the result proved it to be true.

“Really — I am no match for you,”

As if a weight had been lifted off her shoulders.

Paulette laughed cheerfully, and stared at Reiji’s group.

At their surprised faces.

Especially Reiji's 『You can make such a face huh』 expression which mysteriously made her feel joyful.

Paulette frankly spoke those words.

"It is — my loss."

CHAPTER 6:
NEET SAID SO

Tifalycia won against Paulette in a 「**Showdown**」.

The next day after the boiling moment in history took place where 「Liberator」 won against 「Beastia」.

“Reiji!”

Tifalycia pushed into the **Hero’s** room with great vigor.

Forgetting to knock, what entered Tifalycia’s eyes at the same time as the door opened was—

“What is…this……about……?”

Her powerful yelling turned weak.

On the bed, Leu, in her underwear-equivalent outfit, was sitting on top of the half-naked Reiji.

Briefly speaking.

That appearance could only be seen as the two of them doing perverted things.

Tifalycia's face was instantly dyed red, and she shouted more out of anger than embarrassment.

"Wh-What…What—What are you doing!!"

Tifalycia thought that it was strange for her to raise her voice.

Why did she raise her voice?

Even though it's embarrassing. Even though she wanted to leave the place even a moment sooner—

"……Jealous?"

Leu tilted her head.

The word that she expressionlessly muttered caused Tifalycia to waver even more fiercely.

"Ha—Haa? Wh-Why would I…feel that!?"

"Yesterday, being praised by Master, heart throbbing?"

"———I don't know what you are saying, anyway get down!"

"Don't wanna."

"I am his master!"

"Even though you are wearing a collar?"

“Th-This is forced……”

“Also, Master is my master.”

“—”

She could no longer tolerate it.

Tifalycia exercised her strength.

She took big strides towards the bed, and stretched out her hand towards Leu—

Reiji shouted.

“—Daaa, you two are irritating! I will get goosebumps if I come into contact with such an erotic atmosphere!! Don’t underestimate a virgin!?”

“Vir—”

“A virgin should not be something like that originally……but Master interpreting it that way is wonderful.”

Tifalycia’s face reddened and Leu nodded expressionlessly as if admiring it.

Taking a side glance at the two of them, Reiji freed himself from the restraint made by Leu’s 『Adjacent Darkness』 and angrily threw his words at Tifalycia while wearing his clothes again.

“So. Don’t you have something to say after coming all the way here?”

“Ah……th-that’s right.”

Tifalycia looked away and cleared her throat.

“……What’s going on? You’re returning the **Heroic War** authority we obtained from 「Beastia」.”

After that time.

Reiji moved to where Edolas, the **Ruler** of 「Beastia」, was and established a certain contract with him.

Simply speaking, it was about returning everything, to be more specific, everything except Tistel, that he had obtained back to him.

Tifalycia, who found out about that matter rather late, was enquired about it by the servants, and hence she came stomping into Reiji’s room.

“If we use the **Heroic War** authority of 「Beastia」 as a negotiation chip, I’m not saying the entire Entara land, but we should be able to obtain at least some amount of territory……then the 「Infirma」 and [Absence] around the world could migrate there……!”

If he did that, Clairlycia’s (Mother’s) wish could also be fulfilled—

“Too naive.”

The one who answered in place of Reiji was…Leu.

“Let’s say that we managed to snatch some territory from 「Beastia」, the citizens who are living there would stay as they are. Are you saying that you are going to chase them out?”

“—……That’s…”

“Even if you did chase the citizens of 「Beastia」 out, the 「Infirma」 people would not come. The people here are following either you or your mother, but the others are usually tied in a master-servant contract.”

“__”

Certainly, what Leu had said hit bullseye.

There would be no change even if they did snatch some territory.

Just that level would not be enough to change the fact that 「Infirma」 was a powerless race which could not use magic, and the prejudice from other races that 「Infirma」 were weaklings who could only serve under others, the country of 「Liberator」 would also just be empty words.

As Tifalycia slumped down, Reiji broke the silence as if feeling that it was too troublesome.

“Getting embarrassed, then angry, then depressed, what a busy person you are……Don’t worry, it’s not simply returning the territory.”

“……Eh?”

While still lying on the bed, Reiji spoke.

“In exchange for returning the authority, 「Beastia」 has to prepare a formal place that can let all the races officially acknowledge this country. A formal place for a [Pledged Meeting (Authority)].”

“[Authority]!?”

[Authority] could be said to be the world’s highest order meeting that gathered the **Ruler** and **Hero** of all the races.

Needless to say about 「Infirma」, even 「Beastia」 should not be able to call for such a meeting on a whim.

“Of course, they have to do it somehow. Cause that geezer Edolas himself is pretty easy. Well, seeing from 「Beastia」 perspective, compared to taking their territory, this is probably much better.”

“Could it be that you had already considered this matter the moment we had decided to fight against 「Beastia」—?”

“Who knows.”

He said so frivolously without showing his real thoughts.

However, the abnormal **Hero** known as Reiji had displayed his ability to read ahead the situation that was similar to future prediction many times.

In that case, the current one also — as Tifalycia thought so, her eyes opened wide from the words that Reiji spoke next.

“By the way, I am not participating in this meeting.”

“……Ha? What are you saying—”

“No no, think about it calmly. The **Hero** is the one in charge of **Heroic War** originally. Isn’t politics completely out of my jurisdiction then?”

That’s……though that’s true.

The joking atmosphere up to that point suddenly changed, Reiji spoke expressionlessly.

“If you seriously want to make the country 「Liberator」 that welcomes those without a place to go — show me how you openly deal with them as its representative. Isn’t [Authority] the place for that sake?”

“____”

The country for welcoming those without a place to go.

As its representative, make a performance.

With Tifalycia alone—

“In the first place, Master also never fought the **Heroic War** properly if you think about it.”

“Ain’t that obvious? Do you expect a NEET to work?”

“Making a human trash declaration in such a dignified manner……My respect.”

“……Ah Leu. Complimenting me is fine, but stop it cause it feels awful with the meaning being incomprehensible.”

“It can’t be helped if Master says so. In exchange—”

“No way, I won’t. Erotic things is a no no……I said no!! Wai…cloth! Using that black cloth is just too underhanded so stop it!!”

“Being underhanded is Master’s expertise, so it should be widely encouraged. As expected of Master. Contradicting himself, so wonderful.”

“What kind of compliment is that supposed to be!! —Ah, wai…really, stop _____”

Taking no notice of Reiji and Leu entwining again.

Tifalycia continued her serious deep thoughts.

—With that, the day for the [Authority] arrived.

Tifalycia was invited to a room in the solemnly decorated Ledra Castle.

A huge round table was placed in the center, with elegant chairs set apart at equal distance surrounding it.

She could see the **Rulers** of different races with their unique racial traits seated there.

All at once, gazes containing curiosity or irritation were focused on her, but she desperately ignored them and observed the surrounding.

In comparison to all the **Rulers** who were seated, the **Heroes** who followed them had various attitudes. Some sat on chairs as well, some stood beside their **Rulers**, and some seemed to be even greater than the **Ruler** and sat on the table……

Paulette was not on the seat for 「Beastia」, but the male figure who acted as her replacement was standing there.

When she stared at him, the cat-eared man next to him — the **Ruler** of 「Beastia」, Edolas, opened his mouth.

“—Seems like we have all gathered.”

Ignoring Tifalycia’s gaze, Edolas, as the main organizer, began the talk dignifiedly.

“First is the formalities for the **Rulers** and **Heroes** of all the races gathered here. Representing the 「Beastia」, I offer my most cordial greeting.”

He gave a deep bow like he said.

“The objective of this [Authority] has already been relayed, but — before we embark on the main topic, I have some matters to say as the **Ruler** of 「Beastia」.”

Saying so, he immediately pointed at Tifalycia, and shouted loudly.

“That mongrel woman sitting there is an extremely despicable depriver! Us 「Beastia」 had suffered greatly in this **Heroic War**, but their actions are clearly illegal! A country made by such a person must not be acknowledged!!”

The voice echoed clearly in the entire room.

Nobody said anything to the vigor shown by the **Ruler** of 「Beastia」.

Just that they all immediately — looked towards Tifalycia.

The pressure contained in those gaze caused Tifalycia to feel an illusion as if it was suddenly difficult for her to breath.

“In the first place, 「Infirma」 or [Absence] making a country itself is impossible! They are an inferior specie that cannot use magic and only has a large number! How can such people be treated as equals!? Even though the inferior humans’ only value is to be used by us!!”

Towards the enthusiastic Edolas, the other races maintained silence.

Edolas’s eyes were bloodshot and he brought the topic to the adjacent of Tifalycia — towards the **Ruler** of 「Elf」.

“「Elf」! You decided to observe as if it’s someone else’s matter, but 「Elf」 is also a factor in this matter, you know!? This little girl has the royal blood of the 「Elf」! Don’t you think you also hold responsibility for the deeds done by your blood relatives!!”

The **Ruler** of 「Elf」 who was at the receiving end of that fury was…

“—I was wondering what you were trying to say.”

With her eyes remaining closed, she heaved a sigh.

“「Elf」 must hold responsibility for the things an [Absence] did huh. Do you 「Beastia」 clean up every single [Absence] carrying your blood?”

“This and that are different matters!”

“Then let us declare it clearly at this place.”

Her aunt — The Queen of 「Elf」, opened her eyes, stood up, and looked down at her with an icy expression.

“Even if…she carries my sister’s blood, as long as she is a mongrel born with an「Infirma」, we have absolutely no relation.”

The bond in the race. Aunt and niece. Such a relationship did not exist.

She clearly…declared so.

“—That’s true.”

It did not matter who started.

Words of agreement continued.

“「Infirma」 has a large number. Inevitably, the number of [Absence] will also increase. Exterminating them also has a limit.”

“Fuun, in the first place, losing to 「Infirma」 and a mongrel just because of illegal acts. 「Beastia」 only amounts to this much huh.”

“What did you say!?”

As [Authority] was turning towards an unexpected direction, **Heroes** were either astonished, laughing, or unconcerned.

The splitted apart **Rulers** and **Heroes** only had one similarity.

That was…ignoring the original meaning of the meeting.

The matter that 「Infirma」 and [Absence] were going to have a country. They treated the issue that was acknowledging it as if it did not happen.

With that meaning, nobody took notice of the existence of Tifalycia.

It was obvious.

To them, the [Absence] known as Tifalycia, the 「Infirma」, were…

Failures, with the only value of their existence to only be used.

Therefore.

Since…a mongrel such as herself would be…

Treated like a harmful insect.

Loathed and abandoned.

Her blood related aunt severed ties with her.

Not being able to do anything, an existence that could not accomplish anything—

Is that really so?

She heard a voice.

Laughing confidently, an attitude as if treating the surrounding as if they were nothing, the lazy NEET's voice.

He was…not here.

In that case, that was — Reiji's voice in Tifalycia's heart.

In that one month, she challenged him to 「**Showdown**」 every single day, lost, and continued like an idiot.

Without knowing, she was slowly being influenced, dyed by the most despicable, yet extremely crafty — the **Hero** known as Houbami Reiji.

If it was him.

If he was at this place.

If he stood at the place that Tifaycia was standing at, what would he do?

The instant she thought that.

Tifalycia suddenly felt a daze before her eyes—

“—Fu…fufufufufufufufufufu.”

All of a sudden.

Tifalycia laughed out without any reason.

The **Rulers** looked over.

“—What’s so funny you mongrel!!”

Edolas hit the table with a loud bang and shouted.

Tifalycia stood up, not minding that noise, and looked around carefreely.

“Seriously, what a bunch of boring people.”

Despise…and sarcasm.

That expression which the [Absence], who should have been threatened with deprivation, had showed caused everyone to open their eyes wide.

“Who is the one that was riled up and defeated by such a mongrel, tainted [Absence]?”

“Wha — Y-You……!!”

Turning away from the **Ruler** of 「Beastia」 who shot up and seemed like he was about to assault her even now…

Tifalycia spoke.

“Let me ask all of you.”

Looking at each and every one of them, she sincerely asked.

“My side was accused of acting illegally, but is this matter really illegal in the first place?”

Some furrowed their brows.

Sensing a good reaction, Tifalycia continued.

“As all of you know, under the **Great Contract Magic**, **Heroic War** is bound with strict rules. If someone claims that illegal actions are taken in the **Heroic War**, shouldn’t penalty for such illegal actions be stated beforehand?”

“That’s why now we are talking about—”

“I said beforehand. After it has happened, I can only say 『You didn’t consider it?』 if you complain 『I never thought that this would happen』 though.”

“—!!”

In contrast to the furious Edolas.

“Fu — that’s true.”

Someone spoke words of agreement.

The first positive reaction towards the [Absence] known as Tifalycia.

Just that one sentence was needed to crumble the wall of discrimination.

Originally, she should have an inferior position, the words of an [Absence] that should not necessarily be seriously taken — could be conveyed to them.

“This matter has thrown a question at us.”

Nobody showed any repulsive reaction to the word ‘us’.

An illusion that it felt natural.

“That is…Is the **Heroic War** really fine as it is now?…such a question.”

Certain that her words had properly reached them, Tifalycia continued.

“I would like to ask that especially to you honorable **Heroes**.”

Without a trace.

The target of the question changed to the **Heroes**.

They, who had less discrimination against 「Infirma」 and [Absence].

“Honorable **Heroes**, what do you think of the shape of **Heroic War** that is to snatch the seal from each other? No — honestly speaking, are you satisfied with the current shape of the **Heroic War**?”

At those provocative words, quite a few **Heroes** reacted.

“We have summoned you honorable **Heroes** to win against other races in the **Heroic War**. And then — since you have responded to the summons, you yourselves also wished for battles, conquering and dominance, right?”

Cutting off her words. She took a pause.

“——However, is that all?”

She opened up her arms. Provocatively.

“You all have responded to the summons, was it for the sake of other peoples’ victory? —No. Those who feel satisfied at other peoples’ victory would never hope for a battlefield known in Another World.”

Tifalycia shook her head, and calmly, decisively, said.

“What you all truly wished for is — to prove yourself as the best in this world, isn’t that right?”

What appeared in her thought, was the **Hero** girl who was probably peeping at the current state of the meeting right now.

Victory and fighting itself was equivalent to her.

As if her own value was only in fighting.

“For that sake, fighting while following the conditions and rules set — I see, I think that posture is wonderful. As expected of those possessing **Destiny** that could move history itself in their original world. Really, from the bottom of my heart, it’s seriously —— boring.”

As if possessed by a sarcastic maniac.

She laughed.

“Being content with given conditions is elegance? Fighting in a fixed frame and winning is the proof of being the best? Victory in **Heroic War** is the utmost joy?”

At those words that could only be regarded as incitement and nothing else…

“What exactly are you—”

Edolas spoke words filled with confusion, at that moment…

“No way, right?”

In the center of the table.

Reiji appeared from the shadow of the chandelier, and spoke with his mouth hidden by the scarf wound around his neck.

“Proof of existence? **Heroic War**? Victory of the races? What’s that, is it delicious?”

Before the wide opened eyes of the **Rulers** and **Heroes**, the ultimate NEET spread open his two arms.

“I have no intention of walking down the rail laid by others. No intention of abiding by the set rules. No matter what others say, I don’t do things I don’t want to do, I only do things that I want to do! I will prove myself using my rules, from myself, for myself!!”

Speech cut.

Questions added.

“Aren’t you all like that? Leading a joke army of soldiers and fight a textbook war like an idiot. Repeating and repeating and repeating victory and defeat — is that interesting? Is that really what you wish for?”

Even though it should be incitement.

Those words attracted them before they knew it.

The NEET spoke.

“That’s not how it should be! It’s a rare chance that you have come to this place that is Another World, why not do more fun things using everything that you can in this world! Deciding everything by yourself, I am the very first proof of that! With only the power of yourself and your race (your own)!!”

And then — a haughty declaration.

“Hence — 「**I plead! Every race, every Hero shall decide themselves, to fight with their own power, to survive on their own!**」”

That was…only a declaration.

A contract disguised as only a declaration.

Reiji was not the only one warped in faint light.

Without speaking a single sentence, all the **Heroes** in that place were warped in the magic formation of contract at the same time.

—They fell for it.

Reiji laughed in his mind.

The absolute law known as the **Great Contract Magic** that encompassed the entire world.

Ever since he knew that its effect did not require words of agreement — he had always…been thinking.

The method of convincing the **Heroes**.

Heroic War was acknowledged by the **Ruler**, but the **Hero** was the one to actually take command.

In other words, if he wanted to change the system of **Heroic War**, instead of the **Ruler**, he just had to convince the **Hero**.

“—Wait. What did he say just now?”

A **Ruler** of a race pointed out sharply, letting other **Rulers** notice it as well.

About Reiji’s true objective.

About making use of the event known as [Authority] for that sake.

Each race using their own strength to fight meant that they could not use the strength of other races.

That meant.

“Fighting, living? Don’t tell me — Did you just make us establish a contract that would liberate the 「Infirma」!?”

All races had established master-servant contracts with the 「Infirma」.

Reiji declared a contract that would nullify that very contract itself, and at least the **Heroes** had agreed to it.

If they continue to fight **Heroic Wars** with **Heroes** as the main force in the future, they would not be able to borrow the strength of the 「Infirma」 for any and all situations.

If other races did not want to annul the contract with the 「Infirma」 — it would be fine to establish a contract to overwrite that contract itself.

“Well, that’s how it is.”

A moment later, Reiji relaxed and — showed an evil smile.

“Hurry up and liberate them ok?”

Saying so, while ignoring all kinds of gaze that were thrown at him by the **Rulers** and **Heroes**, he was about to leave the room majestically.

“You guys……don’t you regret……you lowly 「Infirma」 and [Absence], unable to use magic, not possessing anything—”

Edolas raged.

“It’s you guys who better not regret, got it?”

The **Hero** of 「Liberator」 turned around, and muttered.

“You fellows who selfishly created this trash of a **Great Contract Magic**, don’t think that you can seriously fight against the 「Liberator」 that can become anything because they have nothing.”

Edolas was rendered speechless, Reiji looked at Tifalycia.

She, who had no position, looked squarely at the **Rulers**, and quietly spoke.

“If you have any complaints, please go ahead and submit an official document. Be it a **Heroic War** or anything else, we will respectfully attend to them. Though — whether or not we will accept it from the front or not, that I do not know.”

They left with a clear smile in the end.

As they disappeared beyond the door—

[] [Main] []

Epilogue:
Not Working, As Always

And returning to Reiji's room in Tistel Castle.

"Ah, so tired, so tired."

Reiji fell onto his bed immediately.

Tifalycia could not hold back her mutter.

"You…lied……"

"Hmm? About what?"

The NEET pretended not to know.

Tifalycia shouted.

"Didn't you say that you won't come! Leaving it all to me alone!!"

Everything.

Everything had been arranged from the start.

Tifalycia’s speech, the timing for Reiji to appear.

He probably predicted everything.

How the meeting would flow, what Tifalycia would say there.

……The shouting probably released some stress, and she soon felt like crying.

Tifalycia desperately held back her tears, while Reiji was calm.

“Ah that. —Sorry?”

“Be serious!!”

Seeing Tifalycia honestly retorting and finally suppressed her tears, Reiji smirked as if asking what was strange about it and then spoke.

“Well, ain’t it fine? It went well.”

“It’s not fine! In that case, please tell me about it from the start!!”

“Ha, you don’t get it……”

His gesture of shrugging shoulders greatly irritated her.

“Won’t there be no meaning if they suspected that it was an act? Deceive your ally first before deceiving your enemy.”

“That idea is human trash itself. As expected of Master.”

Leu added without any trace of emotion, Reiji replied “You actually hate me, don’t you……?”

“Originally, I planned to appear handsomely when Tifa screwed up and failed, then use my super cool speech to clear up all the problems at once.”

“What meaning is there……”

“Won’t it be an impressive performance?”

“—Ha?”

Performance?

Tifalycia held her doubt, Reiji then immediately continued.

“People will be affected by the thing known as atmosphere of the situation even when they are listening to pointless words. They can notice the problem instantly if they thought again. Conversely, if you can deceive them for even an instance, the performance will receive the best result. — Now then, what can you do in that important instance?”

He showed his unique smile which he used when scheming.

At the same time as Tifalycia saw that smile, she answered in reflex.

“Contract under **Great Contract Magic**……!”

Contract under it did not need permanent agreement. As long as one thought 『That’s right』, the contract would be established on that instant, it was sufficient.

For that sake, Reiji considered the most impressive performance—

“Then, I……messed up your plan?”

“Let’s see. It’s the best result beyond my expectation.”

“Eh?”

“That’s that. Whew, to think that you dare to criticize them like that before the **Rulers** of all the races.”

Reiji smirked, Tifalycia remembered what she she had done.

When she thought about it again — hadn’t she just spoken some very incredible things?

Even though the **Ruler** of 「Elf」 was also there.

“Uu……I am starting to feel embarrassed now.”

Tifalycia hugged her head and reconsidered.

At least her past self would absolutely not do something like that—

After thinking up to there.

She noticed.

—She did something her past self would not…do?

That meant, in other words — she improved?

—Your strength — No, please teach me your technique!

Tifalycia had once requested the **Hero** known as Reiji.

That wish.

Was being granted—?

When Tifalycia thought so.

The person himself was sprawled on the bed and he muttered lazily.

“Well, 「Infirma」 is liberated, what will happen next? Alright, I will do my best to rest.”

……Taking back the previous words.

It was her imagination.

That **Hero** was purely moving for his own sake, and the result just coincidentally aligned with Tifalycia.

……Even so, it was a really a great help.

Tifalycia heaved a sigh, and stared at Reiji again after recollecting herself.

“Nothing is over yet! Please work as the **Hero**!”

Not with just her words, Tifalycia reached out her hand towards Reiji on the bed.

“……Fuun? Then, let’s decide with a「**Showdown**」. Whether I will work as the **Hero**.”

Reiji smirked and curved his lips challengingly.

At those words, Tifalycia held back on immediately answering “Just what I wanted!”.

“……Depending on the condition.”

Tifalycia cautiously told him.

Reiji opened his eyes wide.

—This world is…the best.

Magic and **Hero**, and then…

Glaring at the girl before his eyes, Reiji slowly got up.

“Then, let’s start with deciding on those conditions—”

The existence of the most interesting disciple caused a smile to form from his heart.

Afterword

Thank you very much for picking up this book. I want to be owned than to be the owner! I am Karino Mikata.

Now then, this is a story about the protagonist doing as he like in Another World. The self-proclaimed NEET reversed the master-servant relationship with his summoner, the Elf princess, becoming his owner and letting him do as he please.

I had plenty of fun writing it (Laughter-filled face). But I like to be owned than to be the owner!

Speaking about owning, I started to own a cat recently. It was love at first sight at the pet shop.

She’s just so cute, so cute that you want to eat her up, she has quite the affectionate personality, sticking close to me all day and bothering me, her appetite made me want to retort “Are you actually a noble lady born from pet shop!?”, especially, she would pester me with all her might for more food during meal time.

Thanks to that, I have been revolving my activities around my cat’s meal time recently.

My cat came to wake me up telling me it’s breakfast time, my cat came telling me to prepare for dinner and went full throttle on disturbing my work to get me make dinner……

Once the breakfast and dinner schedule is fixed, the day’s cycle is naturally fixed.

Then again, seeing her munching away at her meal, I would think “I have to earn money to support this child” and become motivated on my work. Since I have to decide a schedule to play with my cat everyday, I have to properly arrange my daily schedule, allowing me to act with a better plan than the past — Huh?

Could it be……I am being owned?

Below is my appreciation.

First is my editor O-sama. Thank you for providing various ideas and giving concrete pointers for this work. O-sama saying “Interesting” alone is enough to make Karino’s skin ten years younger. Brilliant candy and whip, please look after me from now on as well!

Blowing life into the characters, Necometa-sama. Every character is paid attention to and drawn with super high quality, especially after seeing the character design, Karino let out an incomprehensible shout “Illustration I want to read out loud!”. Truly thank you very much.

Also, my family and friends, especially Mikawa-san, I appreciate your help on the titles.

Everyone from the editorial department and sales department with Y Chief Editor as head, Designer-sama, Correction-sama, everyone from the publisher and bookshops.

More than anything — you all who have read up to here, thank you from the bottom of my heart.

Let us meet again!

Karino Mikata

Notes

1. Nyotaimori - 女体盛り, https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nyotaimori [↑]

2. Taigoubou - 太公望 , https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jiang_Ziya [↑]

3. End of history - Napoleon’s last war record in history was his defeat in the Battle of Waterloo. [↑]

4. Paulette Bonaparte - Known as Pauline Bonaparte, one of her nickname, neither typo nor author’s mistake. [↑]

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